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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

credits

Translator: danieldew7
Proofreader: Claudia
Editor: Claudia
Quality Check: rukachan

This is a Korean webtoon and the original can be found at www.naver.com

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

King Jeongjo
20th year

Did you hear that? It's the famous merchant Kim Manduk from Jeju!
Yeah, in the past she sold all of her possessions to save the people of Geumgang mountain from drought!

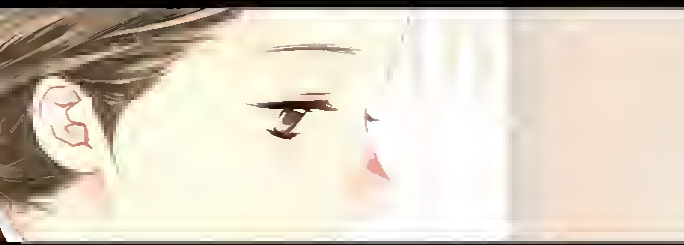
Well, even so, is it ok for o girl to go to Geumgong mountoin?!
쭈뚜

巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

- chapter 1 -

Are you...
watching it?

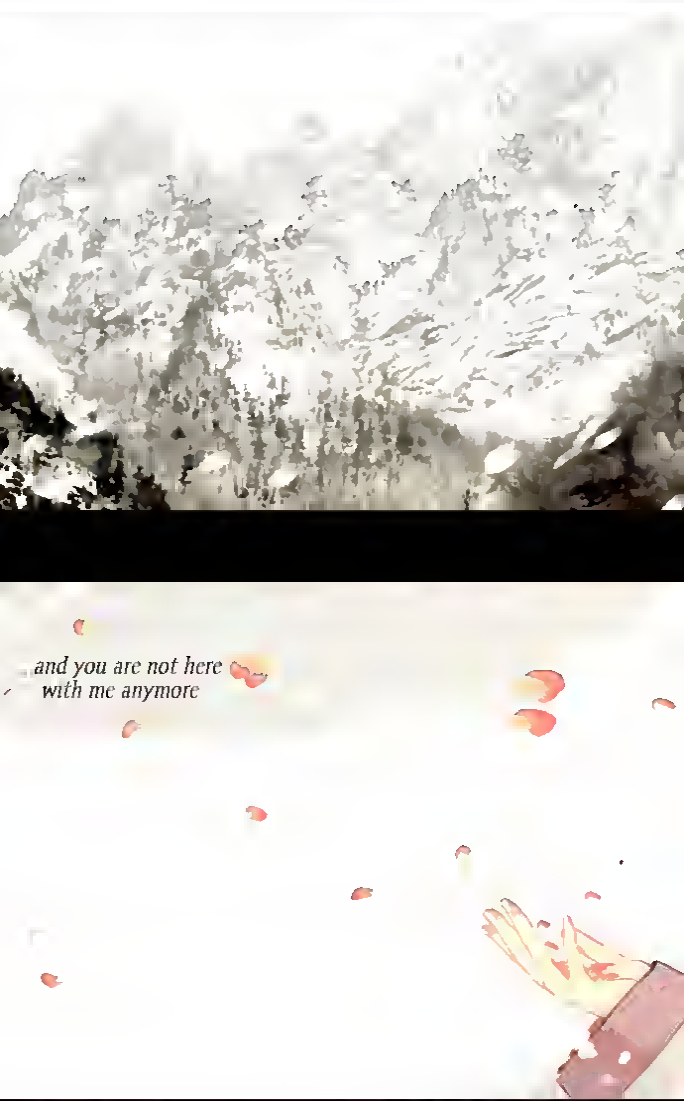


Manduk is finally going to a place that she had never imagined before.

To know that she was born as a lowly servant.

And only by the grace of His Majesty had the opportunity to go to that place.

*E/N She is talking in 3rd person


and you are not here
with me anymore

Right now, the falling petals look like tears

I'm longing for you

I miss you...

I miss you so much...

T/N: Seoul, the South Korea capital was called Hanseong (漢城)or Hanyang(漢陽) during the Joseon Dynasty

스스ㄱ

*T/N. One of the first six official street markets in Seoul during the Joseon Dynasty who have market monopoly and work for the country

Shhhh!

What?
This guy is also one of them..?

Whatever!!
KID... WAIT!
HOLD ON!
GIVE ME THAT SILK!

I SAID GIVE ME THAT SILK!!
첨벙
첨벙
HOLD ON!
Wha . what is that kid doin'?
GIVE THAT BACK... GIVE IT TO ME...
켁!. .
Give it to me.

딱!
Is it.. true?
Sfx: Woaaa~~~
우와아
If I can sell this silk, I can work in Seonjeon right?
끄응
끄응

The job is simple Just try to sell it.

Umh... the silk...

Even though His Majesty announced sumptuary laws so the luxuries trade is prohibited...

And yet you brought this expensive silk! Isn't that smuggling?!
Smuggling? I didn't know anything about that sir!!

I was told by the street vendor Kang Geman that if I could sell this silk, I'll be able to work on Sangdan*.

While they were pretending to be interested in the silk, these old men pointed a knife at me and took it away.

*T/N: A private group of merchants or traders to watch over the market

Kang Geman...!!

Seriously?

You'll set me free and give me that silk?

Thank you!
Thank you very much!

Don't be silly kid. It's only a small matter.
Don't ever risk your life again for such an unimportant thing.

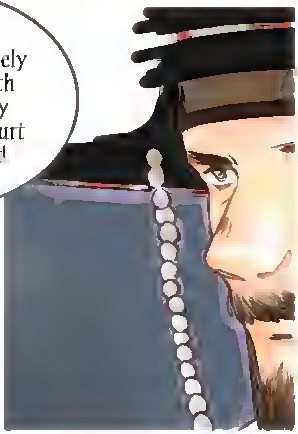
That is... Only Your Majesty can say words like that
There are people... whose lives are not even worth the price of one roll of silk
What?
What a bold kid
탁

I want you to follow that kid and reveal the Kang Geman's illegal trading.

Also, find out about the other court officials that have been involved in his tradings.

YES SIR!

This time, I'll surely uncover the truth behind the dirty trading of the court and the market!



SILENCE!

Not only did you lose your silk... but to get caught by official inspector as well...
How cheeky are you to come to me after all that you've done?
Umh... Your Highness, but...

Is it true that you managed to save the silk in good condition?

Yes! I managed to save it!
After all, this is what Your Highness trusted me with. To lose it is out of the question!

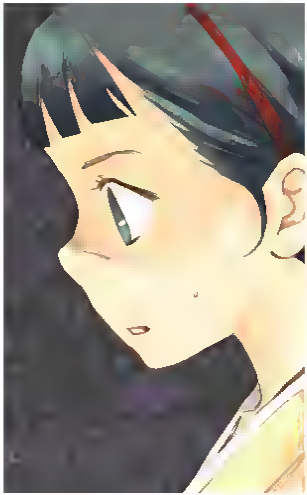
Hehe, you look more reliable than you seem.
Well done!
As I promised, I'll give you the chance to work here, in Seonjeon!

Say hi. This is Munseon.
This kid is your senior in here! She will be your friend and a teacher as well

Hi. I'm Manduk!
Nice to meet you, my name is Munseon.

The house of the Minister of Justice?
Yeah. Tell them that you are from Kang Geman's Sangdan and deliver this letter.

Eh? Where are you going?
Umh... I'm heading to the house of the Minister of Justice
낑



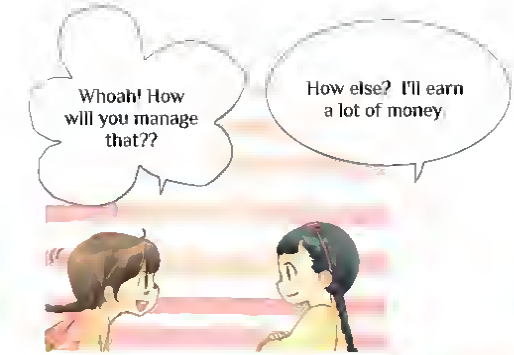
Mind if I
Come along?

Do this in secret!
You must deliver
this letter on
your own
Got a
problem?
Nope
Let's go
It's just Munseon
anyway...

Woah!
Woaahh!!
People have been telling stories about how huge this Giwa* house is! It's really magnificent!!
Mind your manners! It's not that big

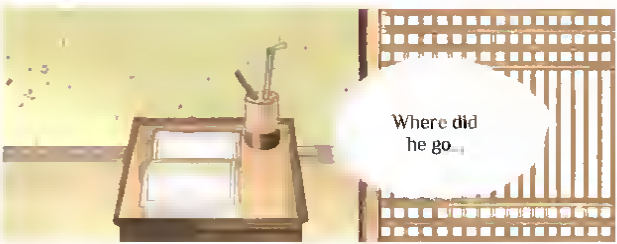
*T/N: Tile-roofed

I'll be living in a house bigger and more magnificent than this one someday
That's why I don't get jealous about something like this

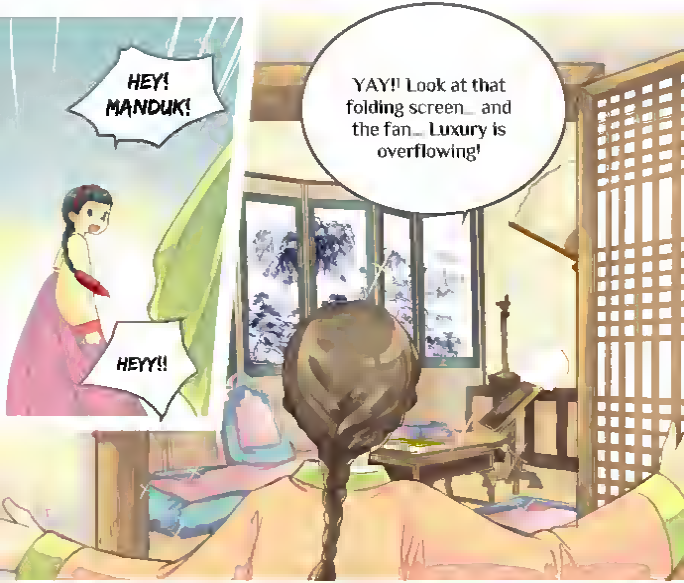


*T/N Now named Korea

Whoahhh!! This place seems different than the others! What's this place?
This is the study room of the Young Master


Where did he go...

Okay, that's all for today
Where do you think you're going?
The owner of the house is not here anyway, so let's take a peek!


HEY! MANDUK!
HEYY!!
YAY!! Look at that folding screen... and the fan... Luxury is overflowing!

The Young Master of such a room must be handsome right?
Since birth, he must have eaten only the good things, seen only the good things, heard only the good things...
HEY! KIM MANDUK!! SNAP OUT OF IT AND LET'S GET OUT!

LOOK WHO'S HERE!?

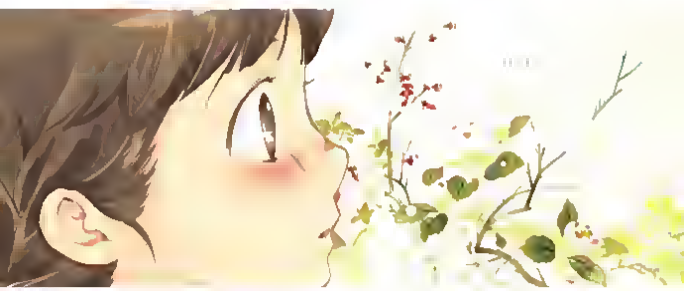
SNOOPING AROUND MY HOUSE WHEN I AM NOT HERE?

Mun... seon...

RUN!

Wait... wait for me.
Sfx: Fup!
턱!
철
푸더기!
Sfx: Puff!

Ou.. Ouch..
Are you hurt?
I'm sorry. We were just fooling around the house when no one was around ..
Can't you see I'm hurt here? It's bleeding!
Ouch. It hurts.
Young Master..



To be continued...

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Manhwa Oh EunJ
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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

- Chapter 2 -

I don't think the Young Master is from this world.
What?!

If you're human,
how can you be this
handsome?

Pwah-hahaha...

Young girl, you say whatever comes to your mind, don't you? It seems that you aren't afraid of anything.

From how I see it, you're the one who's not from this world.

You came from Kang Geman's Sandan, right?

Next time you come on an errand, visit me. I'll use your amusing talk to distract my mind.

I see, so that's the talk of the town lately?
Yes, it's all they talk about whenever I go out to the market.

Is there really such a thing called "God", that is higher than your lordship?

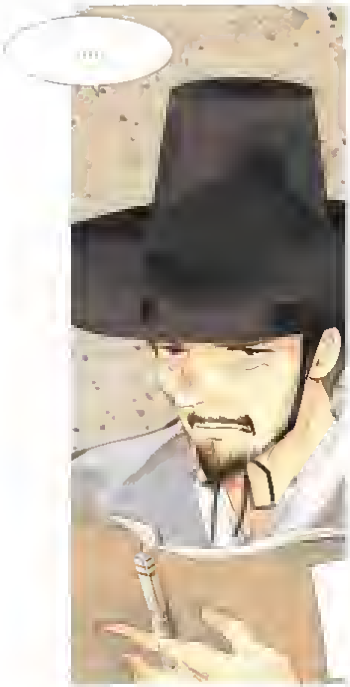
Well, I heard that's what the scholars back in the Qing Dynasty say, researching something called "Catholicism", it's not like I've seen it firsthand. But...

If I personally get to see it someday, I promise to tell you about it.
Really? Yes, please do!
Understood I promise

Please tell me
Don't I always run the errands to the Minister of Justice's house? Why are you assigning her that task all of a sudden?
There's no special reason for it

Besides, don't you have plenty of other tasks to do as well?

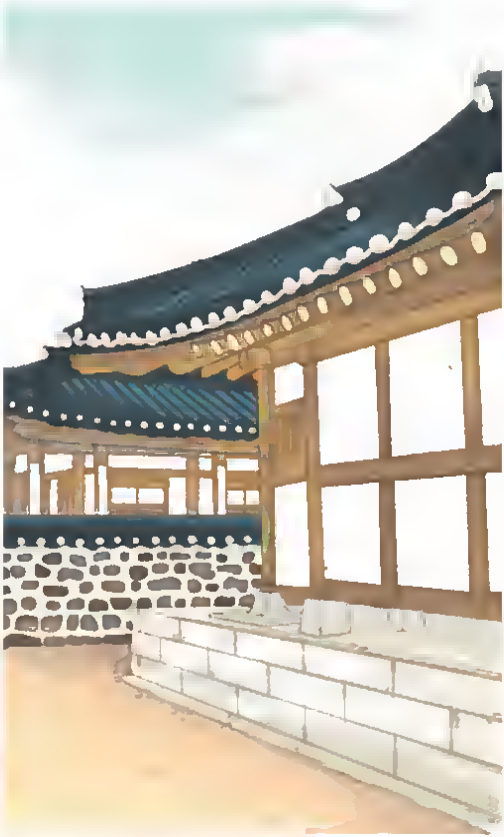
Didn't you say that it was a task you assigned only to me because you had faith in me?!
Don't you trust me anymore?
Or... Is it that you trust her more than me?



SLAM

This is why you can't use little bitches.

They should just do whatever they're told, instead of needless chatter...
I understand, sir. I'll take my leave
SLAM!
GAHH!



SFX: Smile Smile

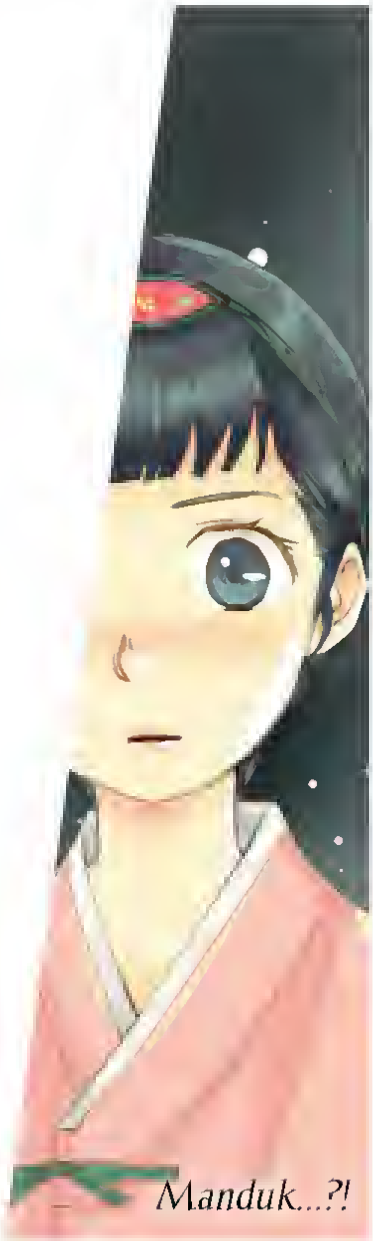
*T/N "Young Master"

*T/N The word used for desert here is "Dasik" = A pattern pressed Korean confectionery eaten as desert with Korean tea. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dasik

Munseon...?

Wake up! He's the son of the Minister of Justice, who is in high standing
We are of different birth
Just as you say, he's living in a world very different from ours
WHAT COULD YOU GAIN BY HARBORING FEELINGS FOR HIM!?

Then...
..I can't?
They're just... feelings.
Feelings are like the nimble winds in the sky.
Can't I just follow along as they flow?


Manduk...?!

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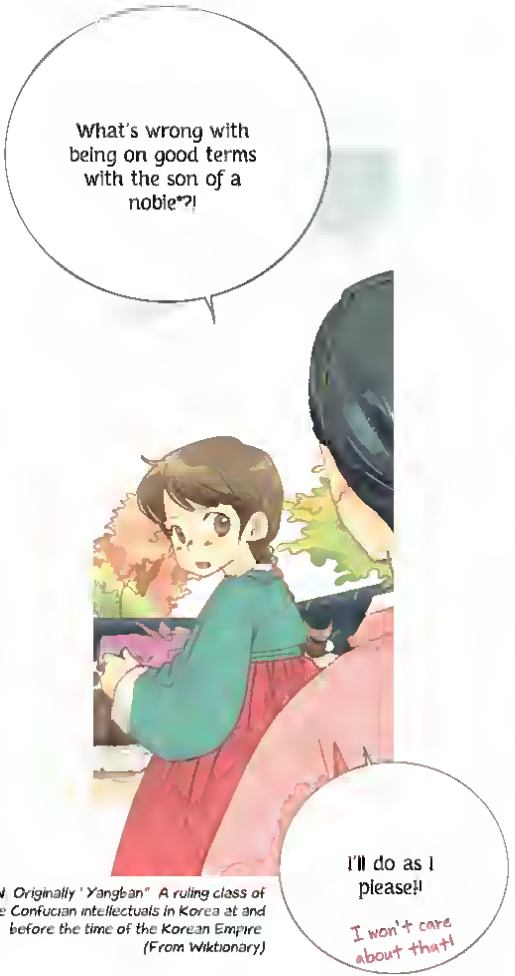
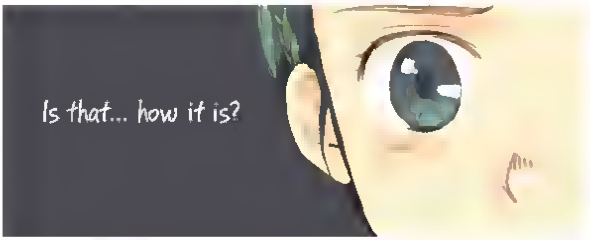
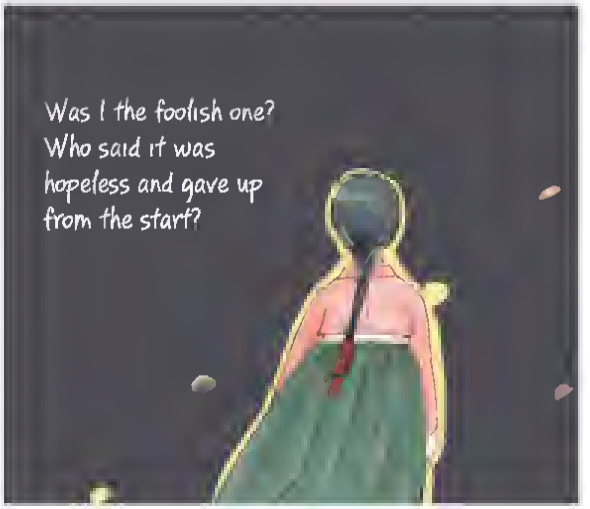
巨商 김만덕

I don't know! I don't know!!
Thinking about it hurts my head! I don't know!!
GEEz~



*T/N: Originally 'Yangban" A ruling class of male Confucian intellectuals in Korea at and before the time of the Korean Empire (From Wiktionary)


Is that... how it is?


Was I the foolish one?
Who said it was
hopeless and gave up
from the start?

Was I...?

Sir, it's me, Yu-chan.
Come in.
We have almost a full understanding of the ties between Minister of Justice Jeong Doung and Kang Geman.
Just as I suspected.
Officer Jeong Doung acts as a connection for Kang Geman and the court officials while that child from last time is their contact.
Officer Jeong Doung huh—

Manduk!!

Off to the Minister of Justice s house again?
Yep
Will you come back by lunchtime?

Nope!
The Young Master of that house always treats me to yummy treats every time I go there.
Eat without me, Granny~

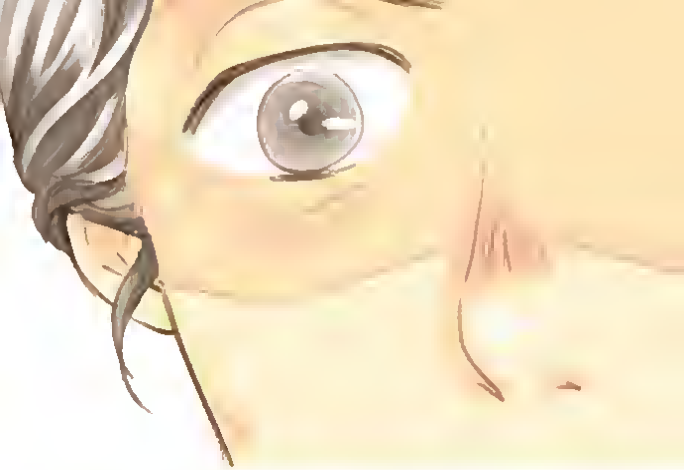
what about it?! I'm just fine the way I am!!
My my... I wonder what he sees in you a tomboy girl, and he treats you so kindly
Beh!

Oh my!

I forgot to tell her to visit the linen shop on her way back.

tap tap

tap tap



Hey...

MANDUK!!

Huff...
Huff...
Manduk...

Are you hurt anywhere? Are you okay?
A robbery in broad daylight?!

That person...
wasn't a robber.

What?!

He's the person I saw when I was taken to Pyeongsiseo* last time.

He stole master's letter without hesitation!!

So what? What'll you do after you chase him?!

*T/N A government office that deals with market related affairs

I don't think this is something you should meddle with.

Let's inform your master first.

THEN WHAT?!
This is my job! It's the task elder Kang Geman entrusted me with!
I'll solve this with my own hands!

The highest official here?
Like, His Highness?

Do you think Pyeongsiseo-ryeong* is a leisurely position?
He's not a person a shorty like you can meet anytime.
Ah! You're being unfair, Mister! I have urgent business that I must attend to!

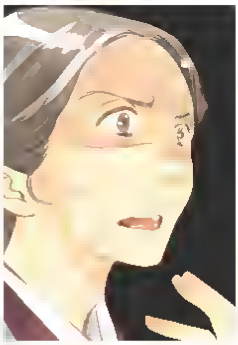
*T/N: A government official rank, in charge of .. Pyeongsiseo

Heh.. Here he comes now

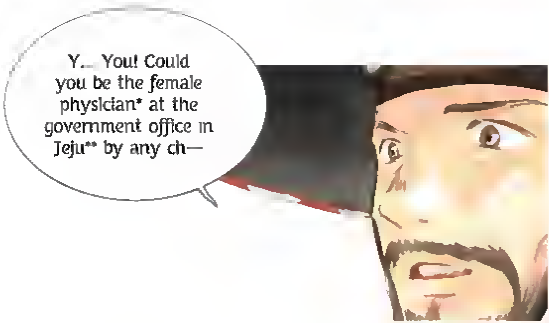
Look here, Your Highness! I need to have a few words with you for a moment.

W...why you...

Hand over the letter



This...
This girl...!


Y... You! Could you be the female physician* at the government office in Jeju** by any ch—

N...NO! ME? A FEMALE PHYSICIAN?! YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON.

LET'S GO MANDUK!
I TOLD YOU THIS ISN'T
SOMETHING YOU SHOULD
TRY TO SOLVE!

Just stay put for a second!
Yank
Look here, Your Highness! Though you're managing the state affairs, you shouldn't do it so violently!
Manduk
Isn't there a rule that says you can't take away a person's possessions without their permission?
Let's talk about that some other time

Hey you! I'm certain that you're definitely the...
I told you, you've got the wrong person!

Ehh? Granny!

WAIT UP GRANNY! I HAVE TO GET THAT LETTER BACK!

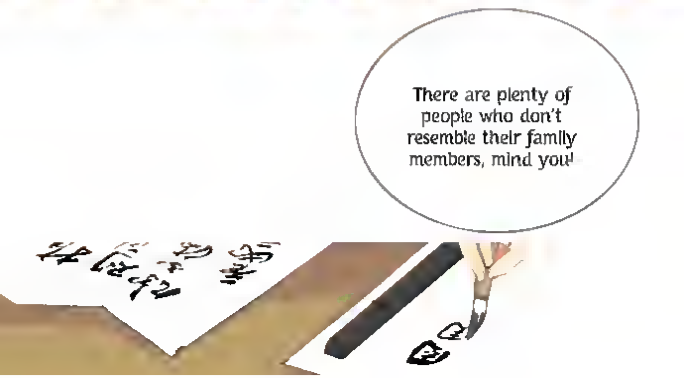
What's with her? Running off like that

Is she your grandmother?
Huh?
Well, duh! I call her "granny" because she's my grandma! Do you call grandpa "granny"?
Ah! Stop your useless talking and give back my letter already.

Fine.
I'll give you the letter.

In return,
let's keep today's incident a secret between you and me.

But somehow...
you don't resemble your grandmother.

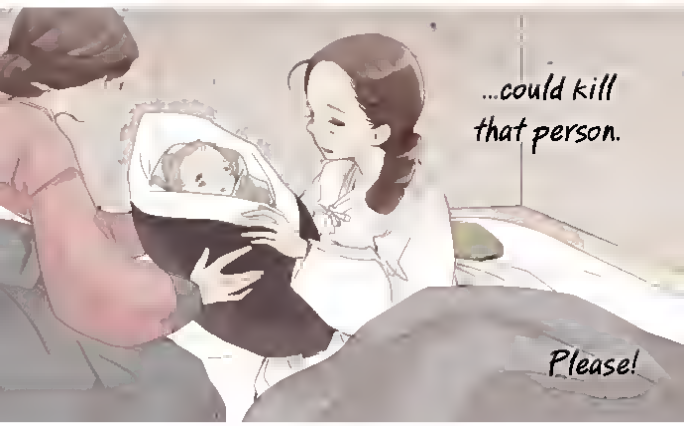

There are plenty of people who don't resemble their family members, mind you!

...recognized
me!

That person recognized me...!

Eunhong...!!

Don't ever let that person know.



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Please raise this child well in my place...

Manduk...!!

We only looked through it briefly since there was a matter we had to investigate with its relation to the marketplace tradings, so—

You just have to deliver this letter to the Minister of Justice as you were about too.

Here.

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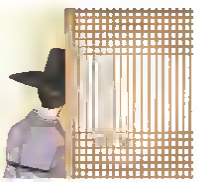
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

- Chapter 4 -

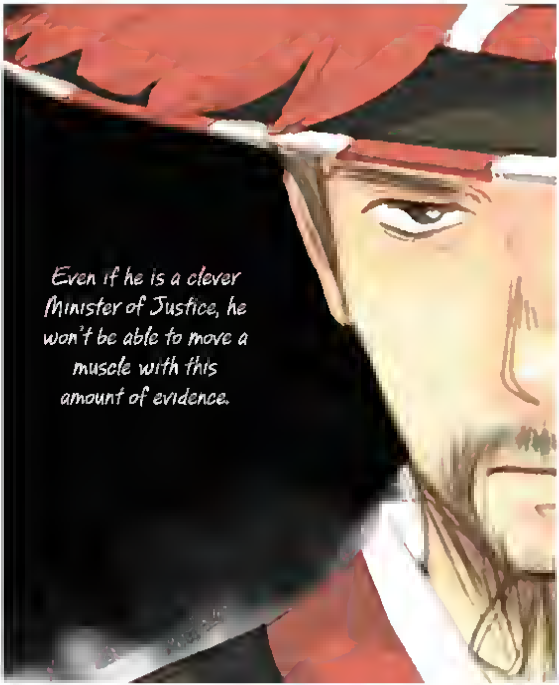
Go at once.
And make preparations as you are told.
Yes, sir!

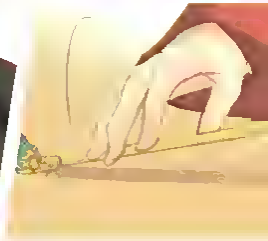


rustle

SFX thunk

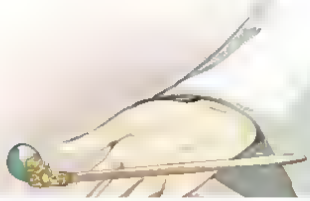
Make haste. Jeong Do-ung will realize the letter's handwriting the moment he receives it.
We must strike him and Kang Ge-man's Sangdan at the same time before that happens.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR!!


Even if he is a clever Minister of Justice, he won't be able to move a muscle with this amount of evidence.



This .

is a signification that you are now my lover.

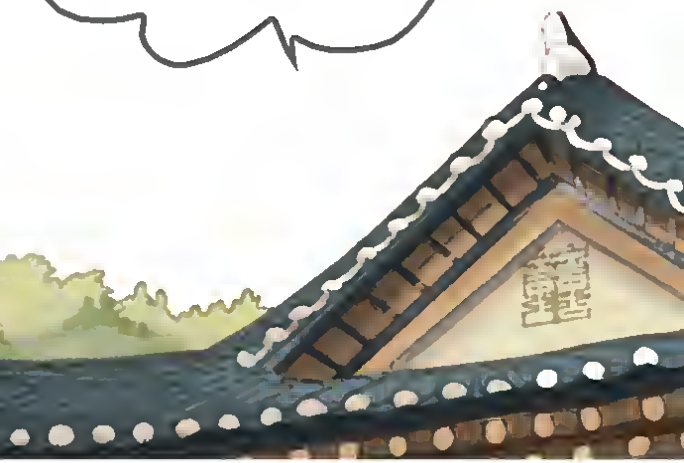


Though this is all I can do due to my position as a criminal in exile .

When a time comes in the future, I shall lift your hair properly.

*T/N: Back in the past in Korea, unmarried women let down their hair straight, while those who were married tied theirs.

what?
Manduk still
hasn't
returned?



As a matter of fact, I was on my way to find out because master is angry.
Is that so? Then let's go together. Where is the Minister of Justice's house located?
By the way, did something happen? Your face is blue.
And what's that bundle for? Are you off to sell something?
That's none of your business. Just lead the way already.

This is the letter Kang Ge-man told you to deliver to me...?
Yes... Is there... something wrong with it?

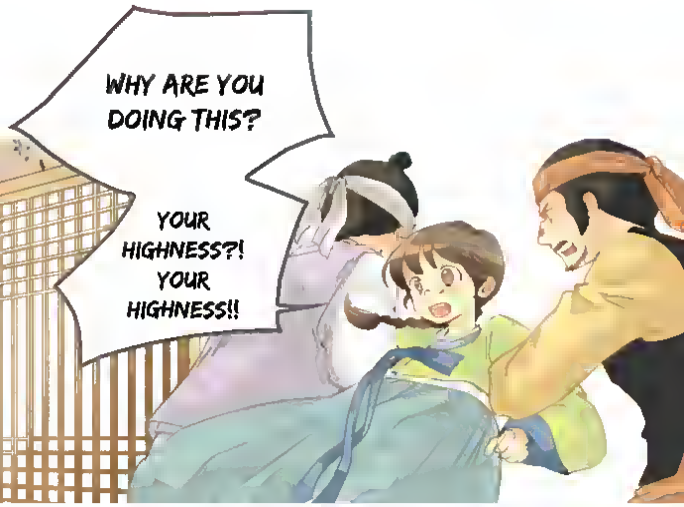
You are also aware of how secret exchanging this letter is, right?
..Yes.

You see, I always drain the ink out of the letter after reading it.
It is crucial to leave no evidence behind

Kang Ge-man's letter is especially easy
They use paper waxed with beeswax
...

GUARDS!!

TAKE THIS BITCH RIGHT AWAY AND LOCK HER UP IN THE SHED!!


WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
YOUR HIGHNESS?! YOUR HIGHNESS!!

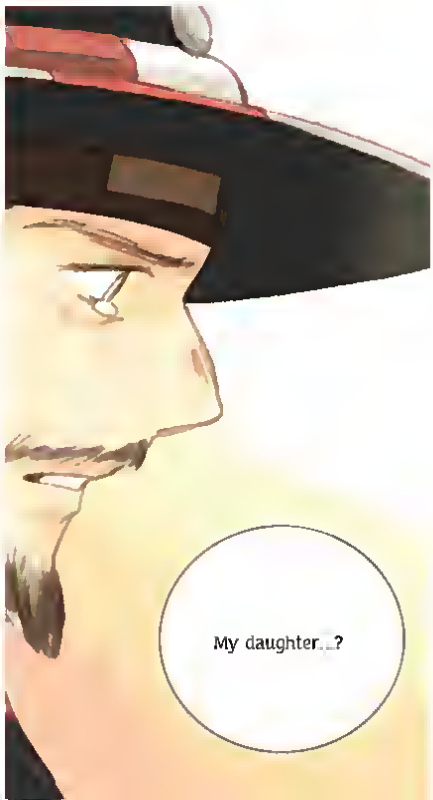
Just the person I wanted to see! I was just about to head to Sangdan
Wh-Why are you doing this? I have told you that you got the wrong person!

Are you going to pretend not to know even after seeing this?

This is the hairpin I gave to Eunhong on the day I lifted her hair!
How come that child has this in her possession?

HOW COME THAT CHILD HAS IT?!

Speak the truth! I have heard that Eunhong gave birth to a girl!
Is not that child the baby?
Your Highness...
Is that child...


My daughter...?

What in the world are they talking about? What child? That child... Manduk?!
Then Manduk is the daughter of Official Kimheon?
What if she is, and what if she s not. The relation has been broken off already
SILENCE!!
Eunhong herself has cut the ties. Please forget about it

Where is that child now?
The law enforcement will soon raid Kang Ge-man s Sangdan and the Minister of Justice s house. We must get that child out before it happens!

They're going to raid Sangdan and the Minister of Justice's house?!

We must hurry
That child will be
taken to prison!
Your Highness...

They're soon
going to storm
his house?!

Young master...
Young master!!!

Tell the truth. Where did you hide the letter?
Umm... That is...

Somebody tricked me.

On my way here to deliver letter, a total stranger stole it from me.

I think it has been switched when it was handed back to me.

If they find out that it was stolen by the government officials...

I'll probably die in this very spot.

And I'm supposed to believe that?
I'm telling you exactly what happened!

Your Highness, please come out for a moment.
She says it's an urgent matter.

WHAT?!

What do you mean? The government officials are going to raid?

Who are you getting this from?

It is from the mouth of Official Kimheon himself.

I heard it clearly.

But do not worry too much
Negotiate with that child Manduk you are currently holding
What nonsense is that?
How is that little girl worth holding hostage?

Even if she's Officier Kimheon's daughter?

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?! ANYBODY?!
SOMEBODY PLEASE CALL THE YOUNG MASTER!!
쾅
쾅
SFX: Bang bang
YOUNG MASTER... PLEASE CALL THE YOUNG MASTER.

Young Master...

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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

credits

Translator: kurosmith
Proofreader: Liliful
Editor: Claudia
Quality Check: rukachan

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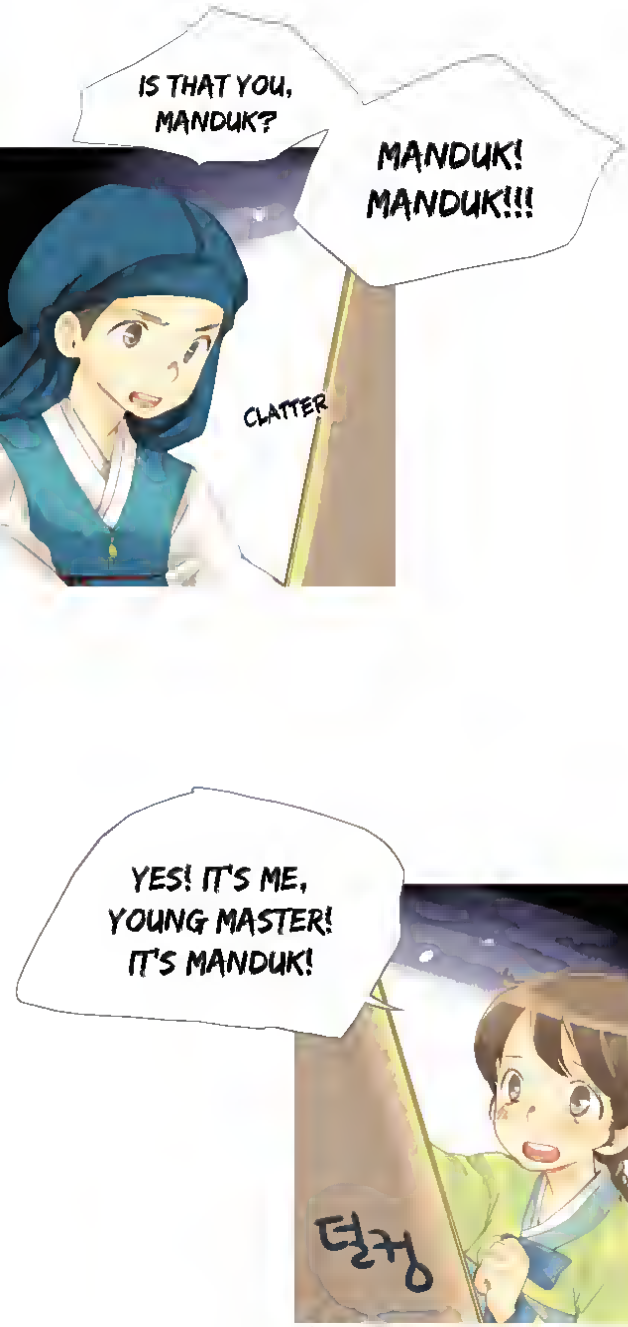
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk
- Chapter 5 -


IS THAT YOU, MANDUK?
MANDUK! MANDUK!!!
CLATTER
YES! IT'S ME, YOUNG MASTER! IT'S MANDUK!
덜컹

SFX: CLATTER

Why are you here? And why are you locked inside the shed?
I don't really know either. I think I might have done something wrong, but I don't know what it is.

Hold on!
깡
깡
깡

SFX: Clank x3

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

PLEASE STOP! AREN'T YOU AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
You must not free Manduk! Just leave her there.

LET GO OF ME!

I know her! She isn't the kind of girl who would do anything to deserve this treatment!
There must be a mistake! My father must have misunderstood!!!

SFX CLICK

Manduk!
Young Master!

MOVE ASIDE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
No! You can't go!

The government officials will raid this place soon
If that girl doesn't stay here, Young Master's father will not be safe

What— do you mean?

If it's like that, then I absolutely refuse to hand her over.
Adults should solve their conflicts amongst themselves! Why drag an innocent girl into this?

Even though the safety of your father depends on it... Is she really more important to you than your father?

Move aside

Go this way. Even if they arrive, you'll be able to get out of here without any government officials finding you.

Thank you
Don't mention it

But I still don't understand what's happening.

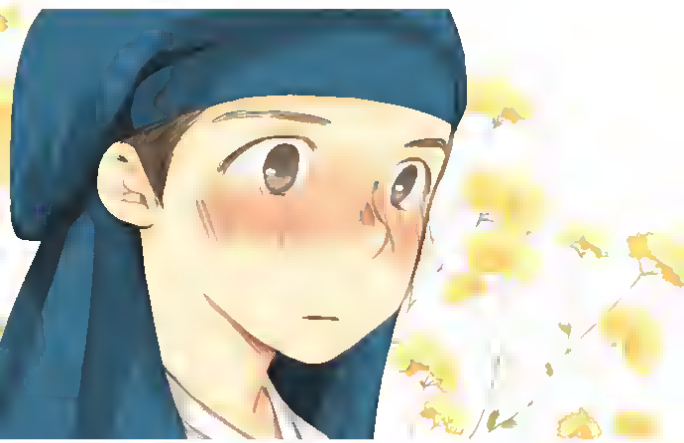
All that talk about government officials and you being a hostage...

I don't understand either.

Um...
Young Master.

Thank you.

I'll come again when everything has calmed down.



I'll come again
For sure..

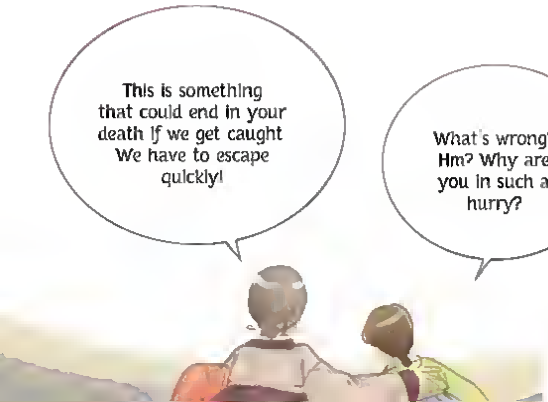
I should return to Sangdan* first!

*T/N: A private group of merchants or traders to watch over the market.

턱!

SFX: Bump!

Shhh! Don't make a sound!
G-Granny.


This is something that could end in your death If we get caught We have to escape quickly!
What's wrong? Hm? Why are you in such a hurry?

.....

It seems like Kang Geman is pulling the strings in the Royal Court through his connection with the Minister of Justice.
The officials got wind of the news and this is the result.

And if they discovered that you were one of their contacts, you would've been taken to prison.

TO PRISON?!

At any rate, the affair with Sangdan is none of our concern. First, we must leave.

When events like these break out, the only ones that suffer will be powerless people like us.

I am sorry, Your Highness
Just consider it a relationship that did not exist from the very beginning.

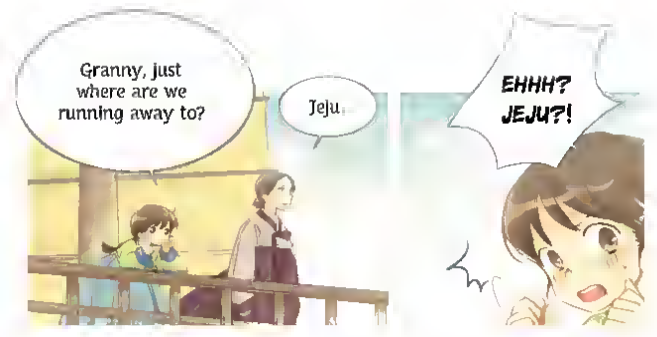
The truth that you had a child with a female physician of a government office when you were still an exiled criminal...
is a grave offence that Your Highness couldn't handle even if you had ten lives
Because Eunhong knew of the consequences, she hid this child

I made a promise to the deceased Eunhong.

I promised that I would never tell anyone about the existence of this child— Not even you.

This child is my own flesh and blood

I promised that I would raise her with that mindset.


Granny, just where are we running away to?
Jeju.
EHHH? JEJU?!

Jeju island..
The home of your mother, you and me.

Then what that old man said was true!

All that stuff about being at a government office in Jeju and...

But why didn't you admit it?

*Note: Seoul, the South Korea capital was called Hanyang during the Joseon Dynasty.

Never again...?

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I will be back if
things get better...

How could you do this to me?
Why did you bring me to this foreign place without saying a single word?!
Sob
Sob

Sob
Sob

I made you break
your promise. .

Sob
Sob
Sob...

I'm sorry.

巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant
Kim Manduk

-Chapter 6-

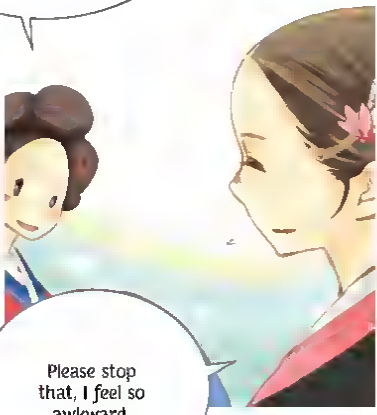
3 years later...

*T/N: Giseng is a Korean Geisha

Manduk...
That girl will undoubtedly be the greatest person in all of Joseon.

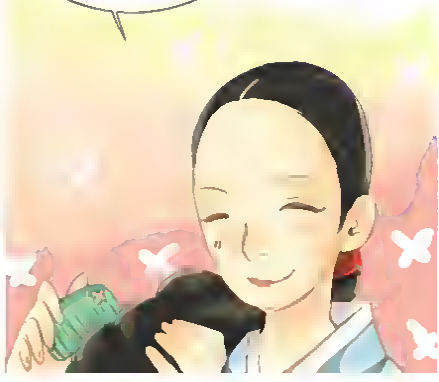
Manduk, is there anything you can't do?
That's right! You dance and sing as well

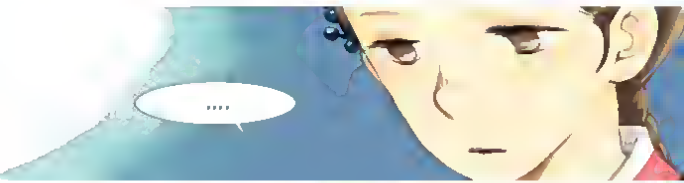
And that's not all! After you came here the elders kept on praising us because our cooking had improved a lot.



Please stop that, I feel so awkward.

To be honest, it's a pity that you ended up being a gisaeng. If you were born with noble blood, you'd surely have the chance to gain a government position!




....

Manduk~!
Hey, Manduk

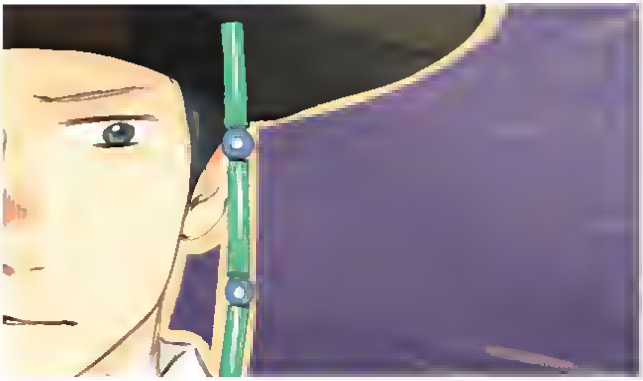
Oh!

Manduk, here you are. Please have a seat.

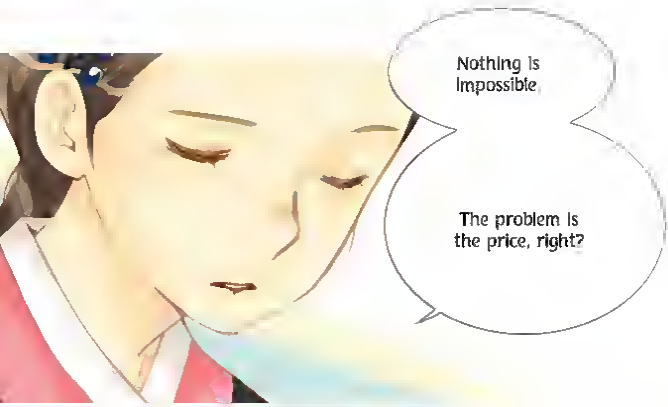
I've been thinking of you all day long, even ignoring the inn's business to come and see you

Manduk, smile for me! Please?
How can you just sit there like a stone?

There's a price for my smile. I'll show it to you depending on how much you pay me



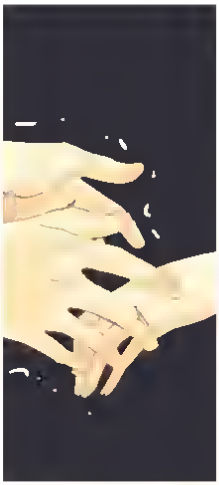
After all, I'm a gisaeng, right? I sing and dance depending on how much I'm paid
So,
If I pay your price, I could buy you, huh?
Stops...



T/N. On the Korean ancient times, virgin women used to braid their hair back to proof their virginity. If they were married or already slept with a man, they raise, or more accurately- plait their hair like the gisaeng mother shown in the earlier picture. Manduk is new gisaeng and she hasn't known a man yet, so she is still having her pigtailed hair drop down.

..Life.

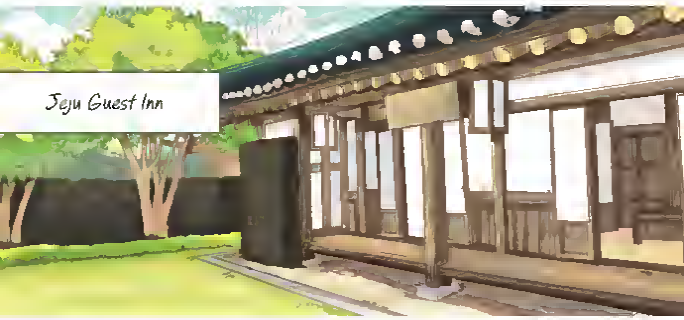
How about
the Inn
owner's life?



I think that's what true love should mean. To give your whole life to one person.
If your love isn't that deep, I don't need it.

Even though the safety of your father depends on it... Is she really more important to you than your father?

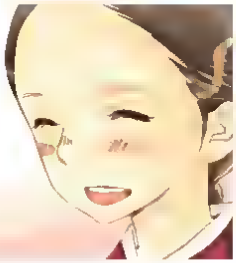
Move aside


Jeju Guest Inn

I don t want to see your face, so why are you still coming here?
Granny...

There is nothing for us to talk about. Ever since you became a gisaeng,
I can no longer recognize you as my granddaughter.
Just go away!

Ok then. It's enough for me just to see your face. I'm going now.



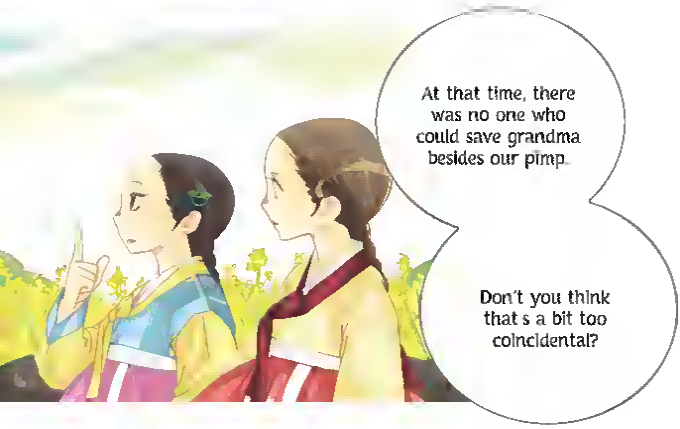
Tch!
Such a lewd girl
Why does she still speak so gently?

Why didn't you tell her the truth?
About what?

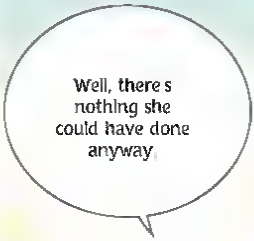
That you became a gisaeng to save her
...

Maybe you don't know this, but it might not be Suryon's fault that grandma ate the wrong medicine

*T/N The gisaeng's procurer.


At that time, there was no one who could save grandma besides our pimp.
Don't you think that's a bit too coincidental?

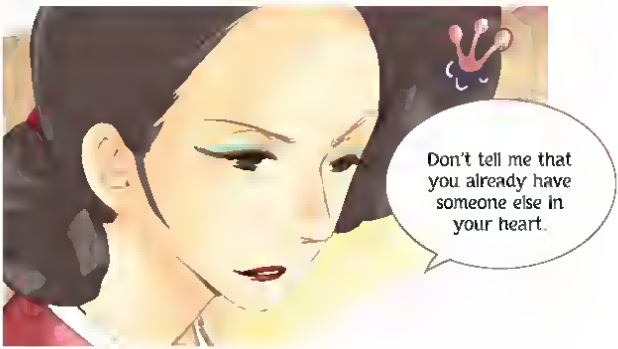
So you're saying that it's grandma's fault that our pimp tried to make me a gisaeng?

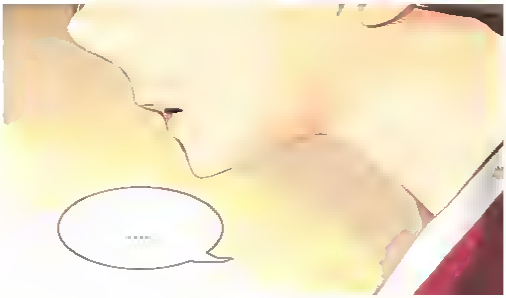

Well, there s
nothing she
could have done
anyway

Why did you reject him?

Don't you know Kang Yujl from the West guest inn? He's the first successor to Kang Geman Sangdan!
If you give your body to him, you'll already be sitting on a huge pile of money.

I didn t like the offer anyway


Don't tell me that you already have someone else in your heart.



No, I
don't...

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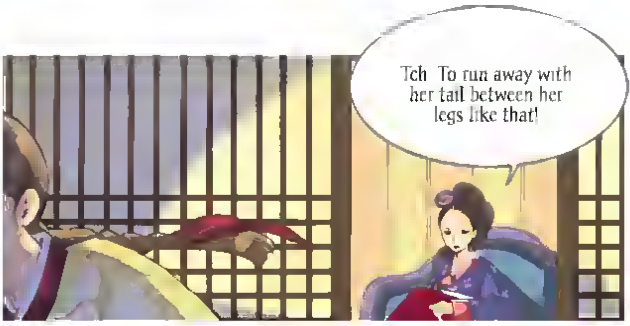
The Great Merchant
Kim Manduk

- Chapter 7 -


Tch To run away with her tail between her legs like that!

Am I stupid...?
Am I...?

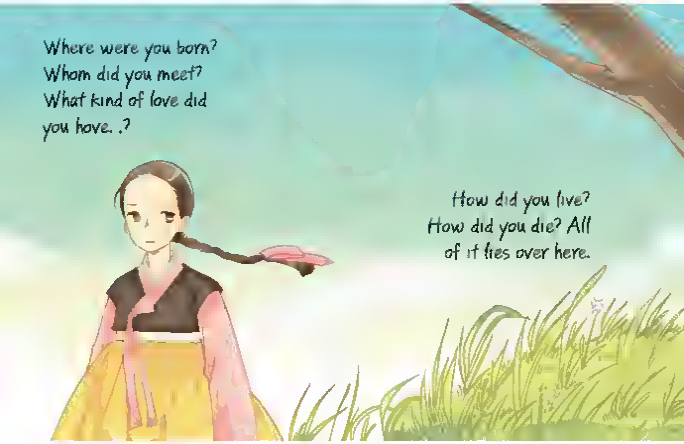
But if I don't long
for anything—

What should I live for ?

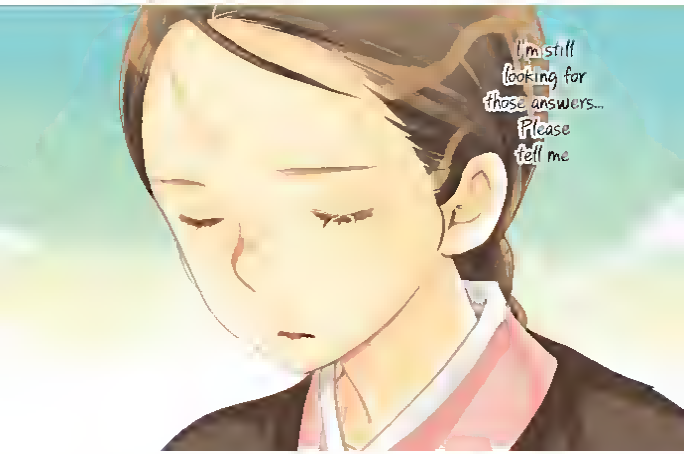
Living without any
purpose or mean-
ing... and then just
fading away

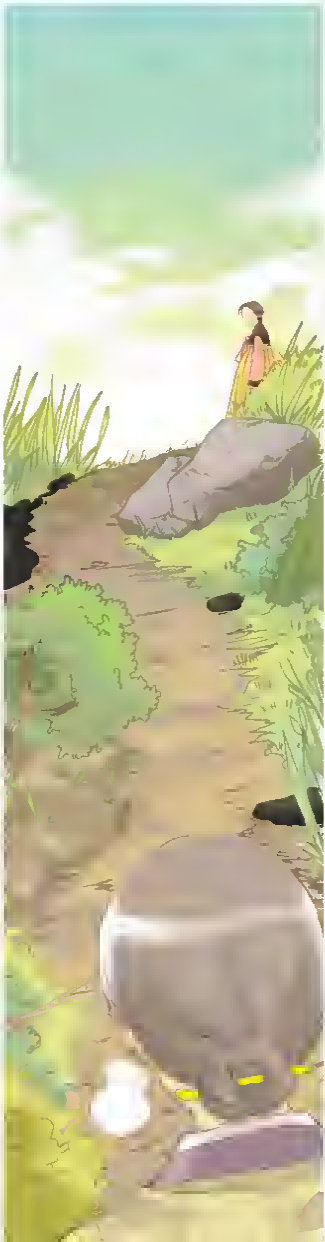
Will I finally meet
my end buried
here?

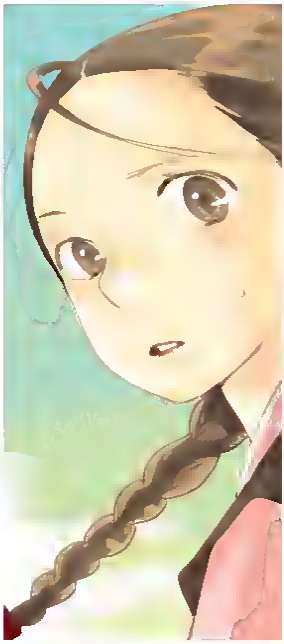
Another nameless grave...


Where were you born? Whom did you meet? What kind of love did you have..?
How did you live? How did you die? All of it lies over here.

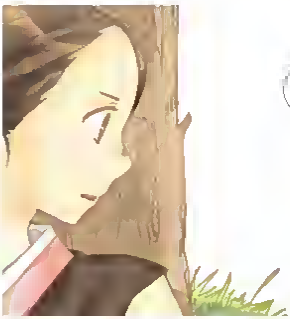
After you died, you were buried here
Did you even realize what the meaning of being alive is?


I'm still looking for those answers... Please tell me





Granny...?!



Gosh...
I'm done for

Maybe I won't be
able to make it up
here next time.

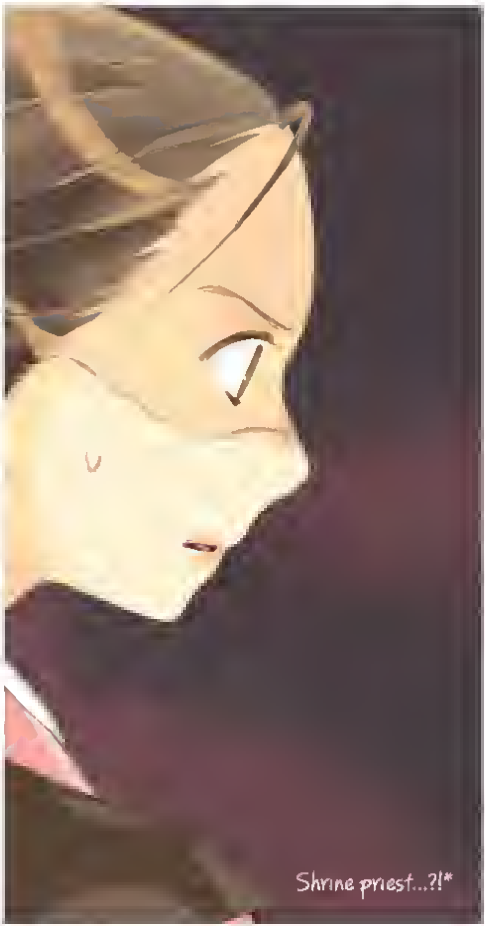
It seems like I'm
too old for this.

Well, have a cup
of this first.

If it's not you... there isn't anyone worth having a drink with.
You can see everything from heaven, right?
So you can surely see your daughter...

She doesn't even know who the woman that killed her mother is.
First a shrine priest, then she became a gisaeng* called "Mother"... That kid ..t

*Gisaeng = Geisha



T/N: The term is actually Myohyang, a person who is serve and give offerings to the royal ancestor's shrine

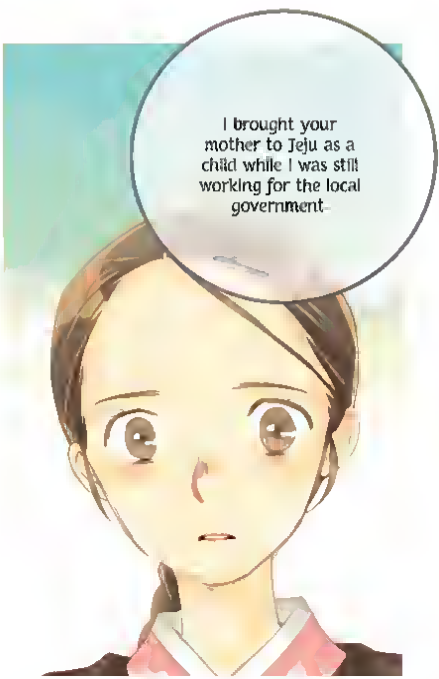
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
!
스윽

Man-
Manduk...?!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!!!
WHOSE GRAVE IS THIS?
Manduk...
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?! TELL ME!
"The woman who killed her mother"... You were talking about me, right?
You were talking about me, right?!

...!!!

Dang, this is all because of the liquor.
This is... your mother's grave.


I brought your mother to Jeju as a child while I was still working for the local government.

I met your father when I was called to the palace for Pressure Sore treatment of King Yeongjo.

I'm sure that you've also met him.

T/N: Notice that Korean's family name are from his/her father. hence Kim Manduk is really Kim Hun's daughter

"Crown Prince Sadoseja was killed by his own father King Yeongjo who locked his son in a rice chest. This happened when Sadoseja's son, who later became known as King Jeongjo was 11 years old. It came as a huge shock to and confused young King Jeongjo. But despite his miserable childhood, he came to be known as one of the greatest kings of the late Joseon dynasty in the 18th Century who brought about a cultural renaissance.

What about the story that the Gisaeng's pimp killed my mother?

I don't know what kind of love that was...

The shrine priest loved your father.
But she was blinded by jealousy.

He was banished due to a crime he had committed, moreover he had an affair with a female nurse servant of the palace.
Those crimes are enough to put your father, mother and even you to death.

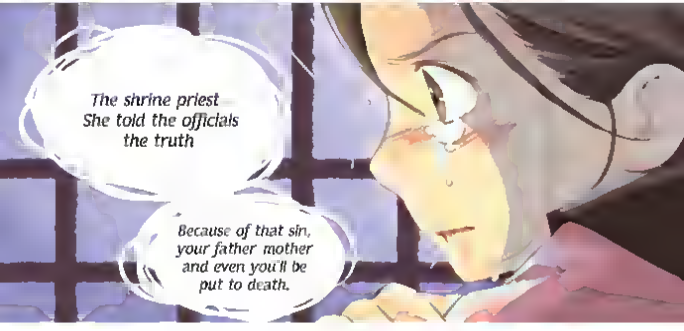
T/N Korean officials in old times had slaves as their servants These people were usually from the lowest class or captured criminals.

That can't be possible...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!!

Sigh... You have such a sad fate...

Unfortunately, your daughter does as well.



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The Great Merchant
Kim Manduk

-Chapter 8-

What's wrong with your face?

Having trouble sleeping at night?

No, Ma'am

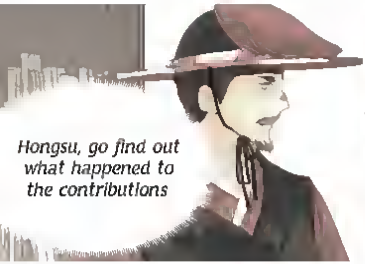
Girls-!!
The inspector from Hanyang will be visiting.

There will be a great banquet held in his honor, so make yourselves up and watch your tone when speaking.

Manduk, I have a separate task for you, so be ready.

Abalone is one of the major tributary products from Jeju. The abalone contribution has been decreasing each year

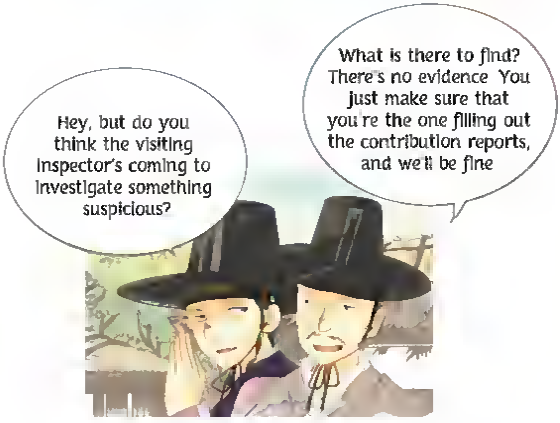
However, the distribution of abalone in the domestic market has continued to rise. Someone must be playing a trick


Hongsu, go find out what happened to the contributions

Yes, sir.

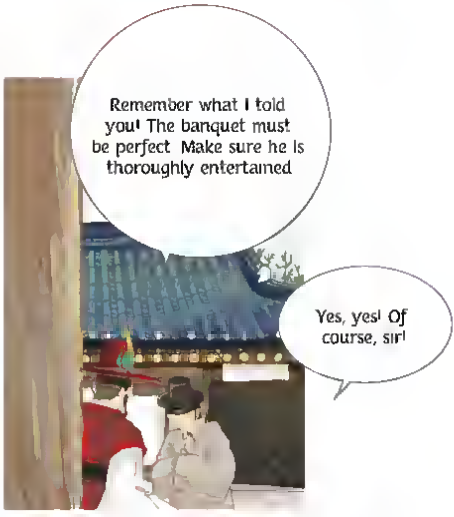
Jeju, West Peddler's Inn
That's a contribution for the king! Be extra careful with it!
How's the output? Are we doing well?
The ocean is unusually warm this year, so the harvest has been great – not just for the abalone and the seaweed but for other marine products as well.

Yes and the abalone are extra thick - great quality.


Hey, but do you think the visiting inspector's coming to investigate something suspicious?
What is there to find? There's no evidence. You just make sure that you're the one filling out the contribution reports, and we'll be fine

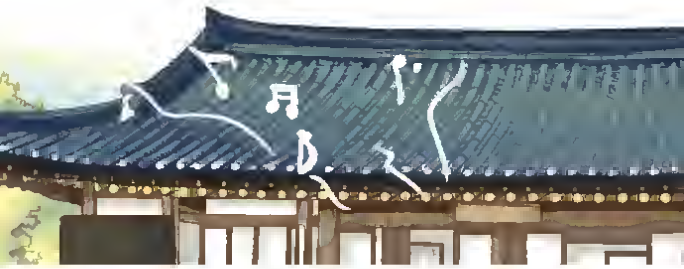
The Elder was right! It's easy as long as we keep the officials out of the loop

Hahaha...
Jeju Government Office
Young Master! How gracious of you to come all this way!
I have not come at my own discretion but simply to fulfill my public duty.
All the same please come in!


Remember what I told you! The banquet must be perfect. Make sure he is thoroughly entertained
Yes, yes! Of course, sir!

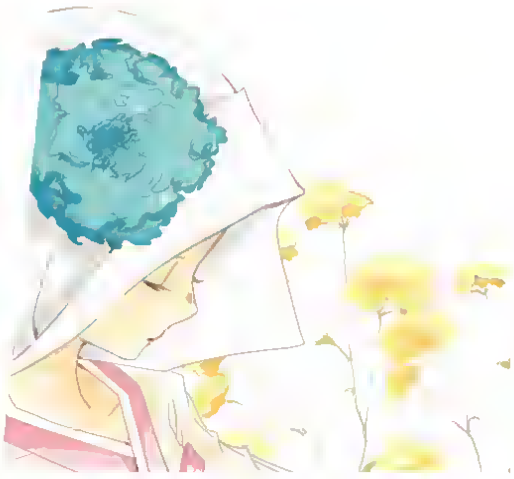
Put Manduk on last! Make sure to save her for the end.
Oh, and don't forget—
Sure...sure! She'll be a great finishing touch!
I'm sure you've heard that Jeju is also called "Samdado" because it is rich in wind, rocks, and women.

[T/N: Samdado / 삼다도(三多島) is the nickname of Jeju island, which means 'the island where there are lot of women, rock, and wind.' FYI: the rock in Jeju island are special because it's from volcano eruption, they have a porous texture.



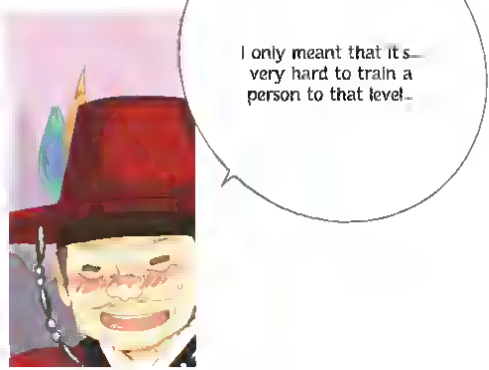
There are a lot of women here. I'm sure you'll find many pleasing to the eye.
What do you think? Are the girls here to your liking?

Yes. As you say, they are lovely.
Ho ho! You haven't seen anything yet, sir.
The star is yet to come.
Ah here she comes -
The real Star of the Show!

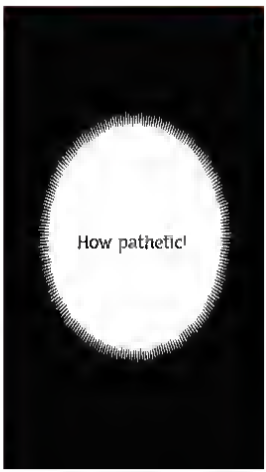


See how graceful she is? A butterfly cannot compare with her!
I had to go through a lot to create that

What do you mean, "create"?
Stare
Huh? Uh, w-well—

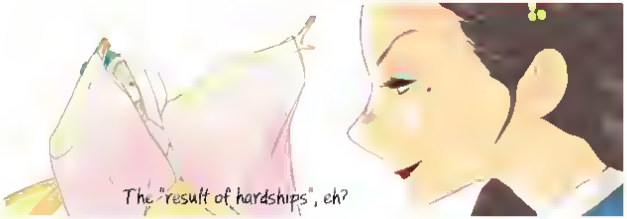

I only meant that it s— very hard to train a person to that level—

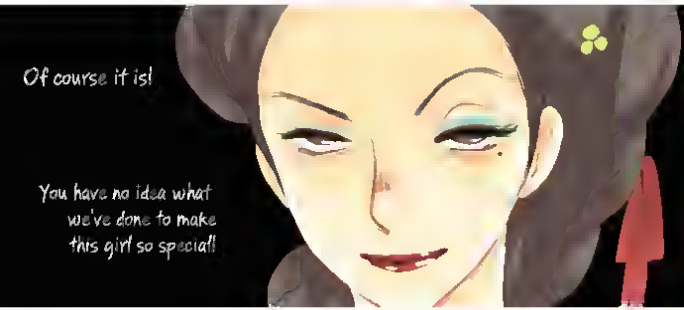
Really?
It is a pity those hardships did not produce better results


How pathetic!

To distract visiting inspectors from conducting thorough investigations

Each district magistrate puts in so much time and effort to train Gisaeng?! When they could be turning their attention to their own work!




Of course it is!
You have no idea what we've done to make this girl so special!

Splash

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE BEST PUPIL IN JEJU TRAINED BY THE SHRINE PRIEST!
THERE'S NO BETTER DANCER THAN HER!
CLAP

What, it's not like they're gonna lock me away from being friends with some nobleman's kid!

It's just.. what I feel like doing

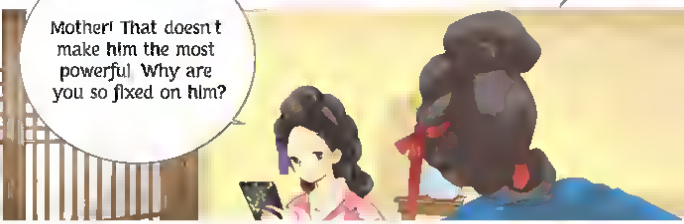
Now.

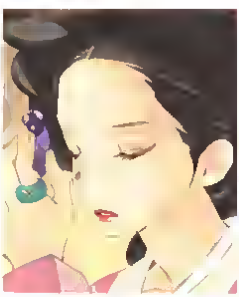
Even that feeling is forbidden

Manduk is ill?
Since her last performance, she's been listless, lying down all the time. Seems like she has no energy.
Go to the apothecary and buy medicine for her.
This may be a problem. I heard the Young Master wants to marry her.

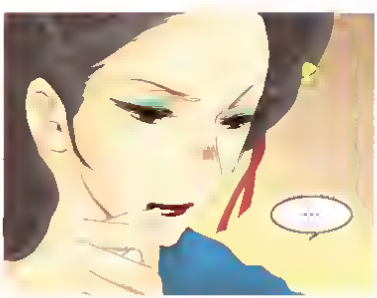
He's the wealthiest nobleman in West Peddler's Inn! We'll never get another chance like this.

Mother! That doesn't make him the most powerful. Why are you so fixed on him?

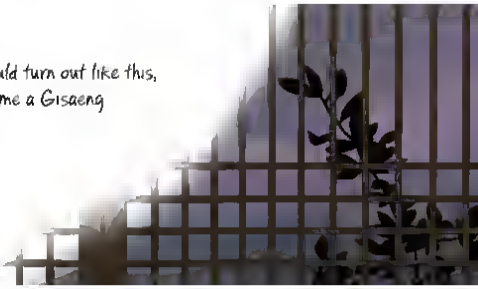




Then again, to my mother, money is the most important...

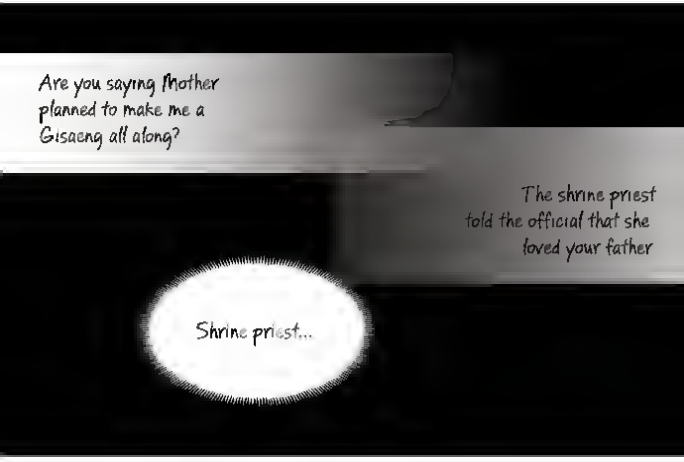


If I knew things would turn out like this,
I wouldn't have become a Gisaeng



Even though Grandma was shamed,
flogged, imprisoned...
despite everything,

I should have played dumb.
I should have lived a quiet life


Are you saying Mother planned to make me a Gisaeng all along?
The shrine priest told the official that she loved your father
Shrine priest...

To be continued...

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THE GREAT MERCHANT KIM MANDUK

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

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TGMKM ch 9

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巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant
Kim Manduk

-Chapter 9-

Huh?
Abalone?!

Yes, the so-called "rainbow abalone" from Jeju.

It seems the value is not as high as before.

Well, Jeju abalone is quite popular. Surely the Hanyang merchants are lying.

Why do you say the vendors are lying?

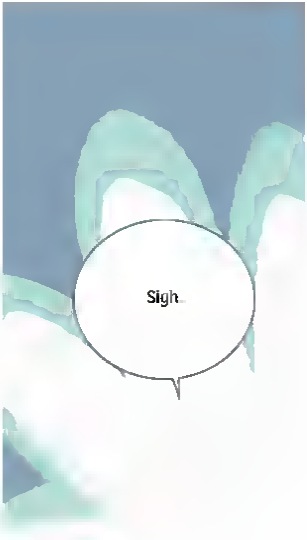
The Hanyang vendors say that the quantity of Jeju abalone keeps rising.

Yes, but Jeju abalone is popular, so I'm sure the merchants must be lying.

Haha..

So it seems, then.

When I'm back in Hanyang, I'll be sure to give them a scolding.



I have a long night ahead.

Please prepare a well-versed Gisaeng for me. I would enjoy an intelligent conversation.

He's requesting a Gisaeng for "conversation"? Doesn't he just want a comfort woman?
But Manduk is...
That's enough! You should—
탁!
HAVEN'T I DONE ENOUGH, SPARING HER UNTIL NOW?

Sfx: Tak!

That man slipped the abalone into the discussion.
He must have noticed that something s up.

Fine. I'll talk to her first.

If you're wondering why, it's a direct order from that old geezer. You don't have a choice.
...Hm.

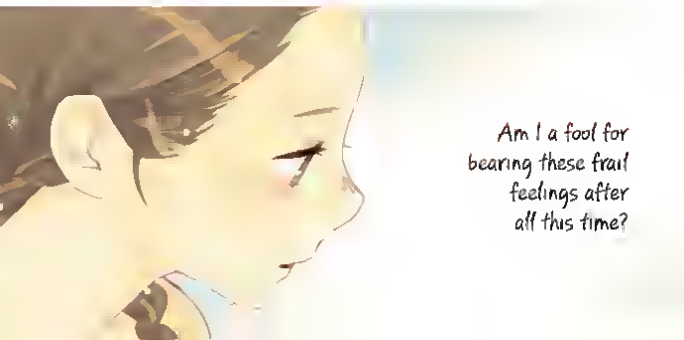
What? Is there something on my face?
...

All right. A lowly Gisaeng cannot disobey her master's command

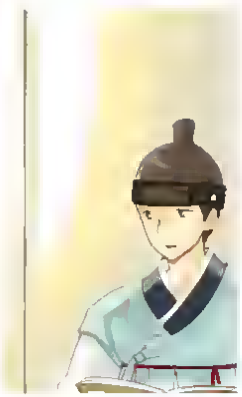
If he wants me to be a comfort woman, so be it

After all

...the young master is a man, isn't he?


Am I a fool for bearing these frail feelings after all this time?

What?



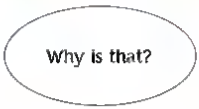
Sir, you requested a Gisaeng who is skilled in conversation.

I believe I can fulfill that role

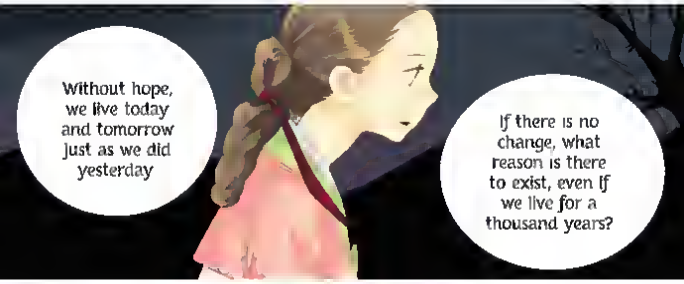
Indeed, it may seem I am just a girl, still wearing pigtails
However I also need to be satisfied.

What an insolent woman.

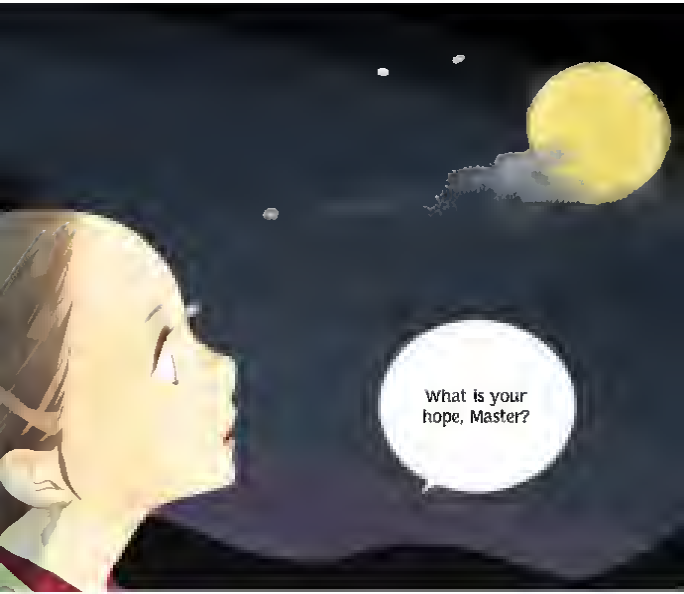
Fine! We have all night
Sfx: Slap
Let us begin.



*"Floating reed on water" = a Korean idiom describing something unpredictable, such as a reed might float erratically in a pond


Without hope, we live today and tomorrow just as we did yesterday
If there is no change, what reason is there to exist, even if we live for a thousand years?

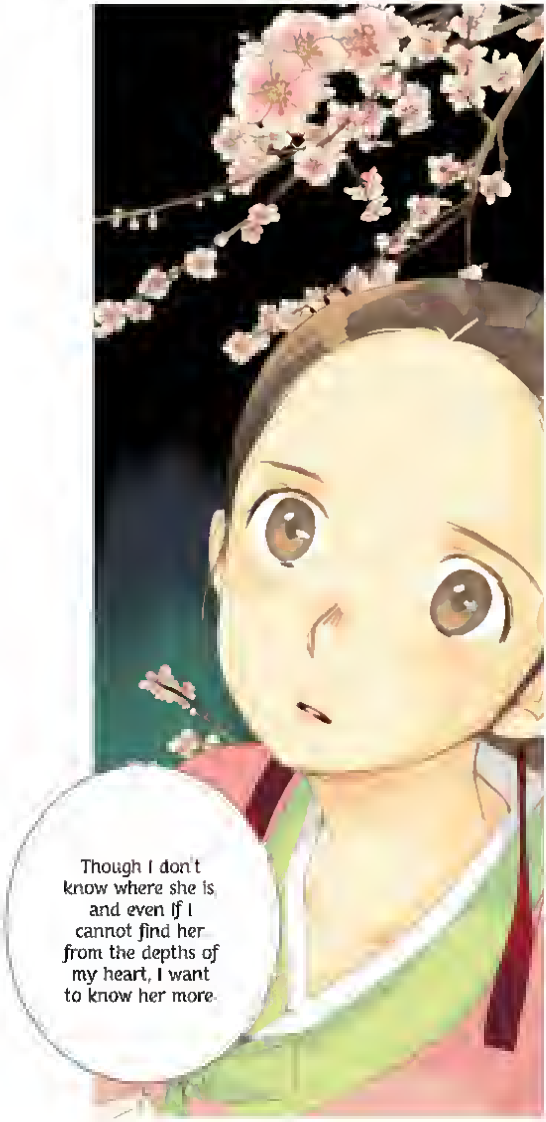
So...


What is your hope, Master?

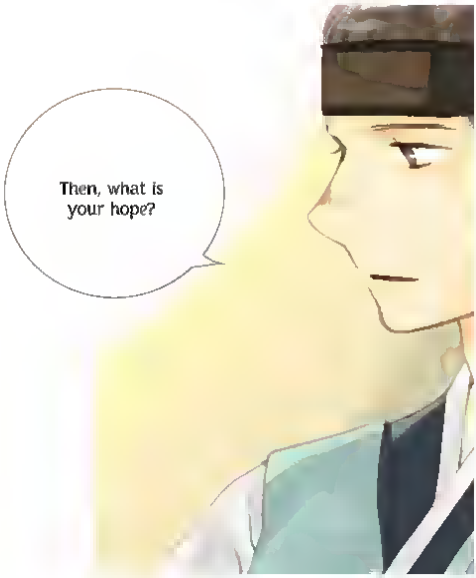
My hope is ..

To be a loyal and faithful person.
Also...

There is a special person in my heart.


Though I don't know where she is and even if I cannot find her from the depths of my heart, I want to know her more.

Why aren't you speaking? Am I boring you?


Then, what is your hope?

My hope is...

My... hope...

That's enough.

Actually, I requested you tonight because I have a few questions.

My hope is...
To be with you again, Young Master

Man... duk...?
Yes, Sir...
it's me...

In Hanyang,

a land to which she can never return,

there lives her beloved,

far across the sea.

And here is Manduk,

longing for him...

Fate brings the two together,

answering her deepest wish

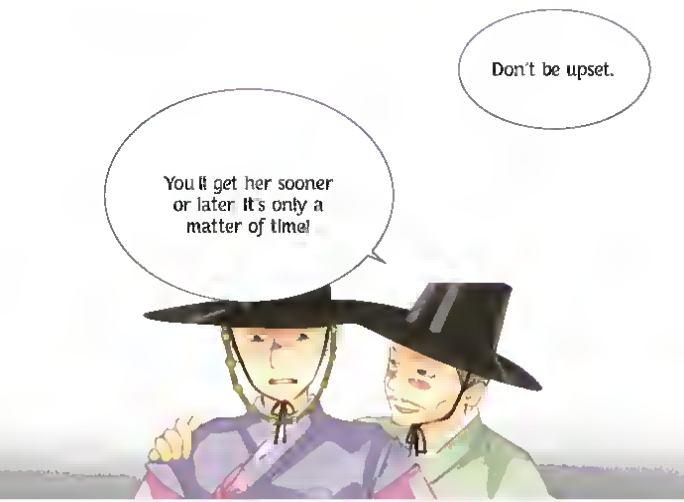
WHAT?!

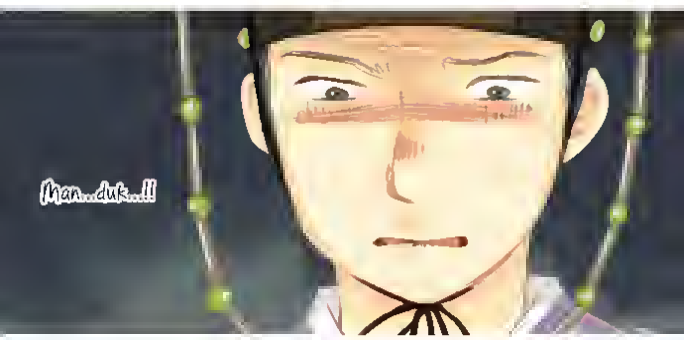
MANDUK WAS SENT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE INSPECTOR?!

Seems so.

I'm not sure why she was summoned, but she went in before I could ask

Sfx: Brittle brittle





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Korean Honorifics Lesson!

Nim - A formal way of addressing someone typically older and/or more respected than you

Ssi - A formal way of addressing someone you do not know or are unfamiliar with

Nuna - A friendly way of addressing an older woman near your age if you're a guy

Hyung - A friendly way of addressing an older man near your age if you're a guy

Unni - A friendly way of addressing an older woman near your age if you're a girl

Oppa - A friendly way of addressing an older man near your age if you're a girl. Oppa is also used (though not synonymously) by girls addressing their boyfriends

Ajumma - Older woman typically aged between mid/late 30's – early 50s. Calling someone younger than mid 30's this is rather offensive

Ajussi - Older man typically aged between mid/late 30's – early 50s. Korean men especially those in their 30s prefer to be called hyung/oppa by those younger than him rather than Ajusshi

Sunbae - Is used to address senior colleagues or mentor figures e.g. students referring to or addressing more senior students in schools

Hubae - Is used to refer to juniors. However, the term is not normally addressed to them directly, and is mainly used in the third person.
This is nearly identical in Japanese with Senpai/Kohai honorifics

Naeuri - Was used by commoners in the Joseon Dynasty to refer to people of higher status but below "His Excellency"

Seonsaeng - Commonly translated as 'teacher" has much more formality and is used to show respect to the addressee. It is related to the Japanese honorific, "sensei" and shares the same pair of Chinese characters, representing 'mister' or 'one born earlier' (literal)

It's about time you learn them!

THE GREAT MERCHANT KIM MANDUK

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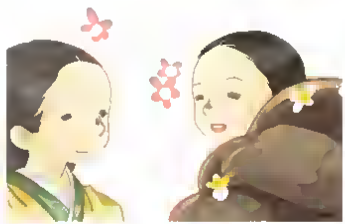
巨商 김만덕

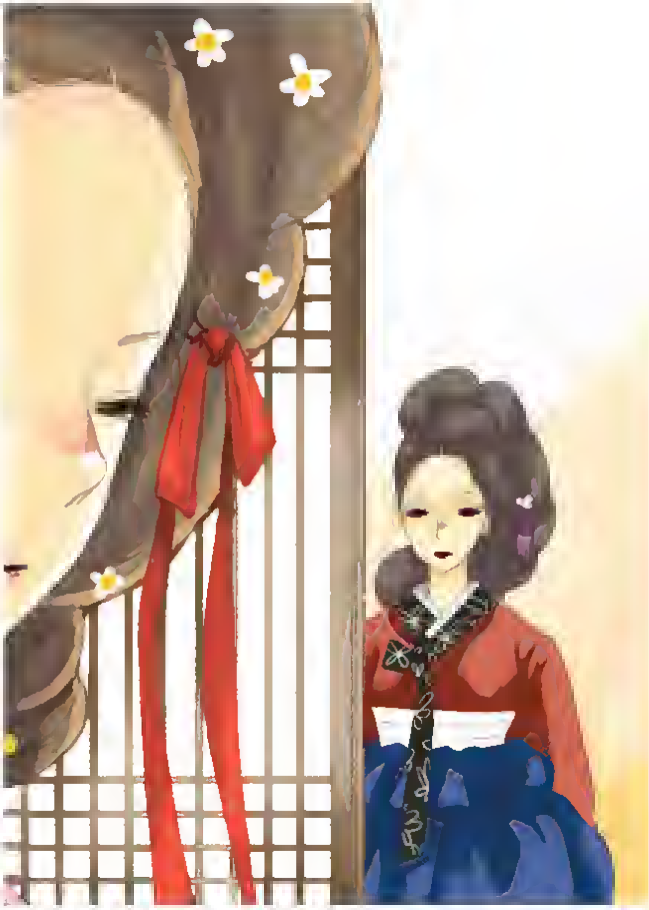
The Great Merchant
Kim Manduk

-Chapter 10-

My goodness... She's so adorable with her hair up like that... She's just like a flower in full bloom.

Her beauty would surely melt any man's heart.





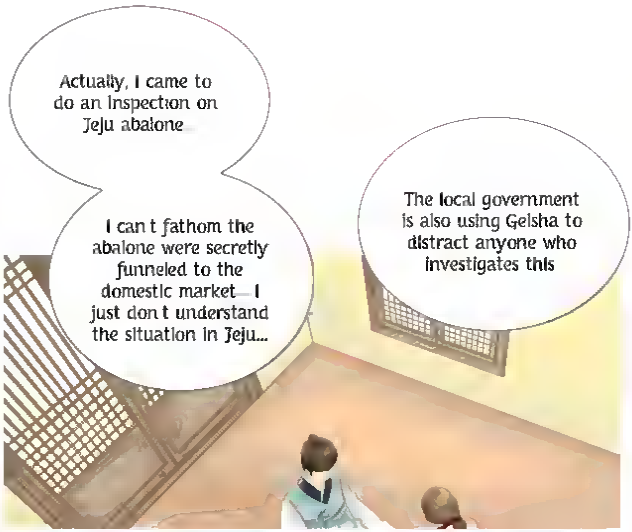
What happened?

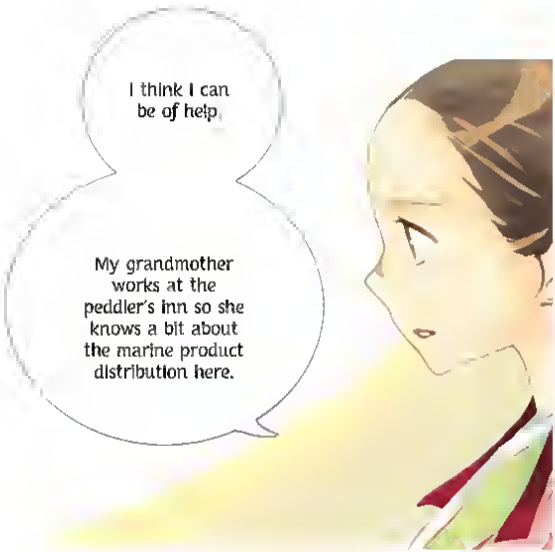
Just as I don t have an answer to the question of why I was born,

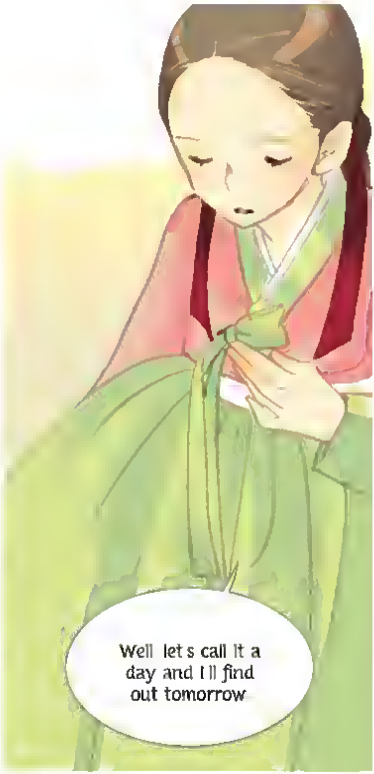
I don't have an answer to that question either.

It was just..
bad luck

Anyway... What were you going to ask me before?
Oh!


Actually, I came to do an inspection on Jeju abalone...
I can't fathom the abalone were secretly funneled to the domestic market... I just don't understand the situation in Jeju...
The local government is also using Gelsha to distract anyone who investigates this

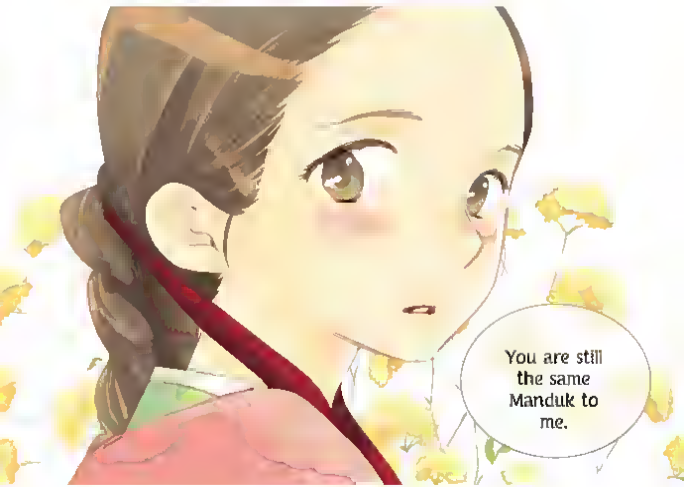

I think I can be of help.
My grandmother works at the peddler's inn so she knows a bit about the marine product distribution here.

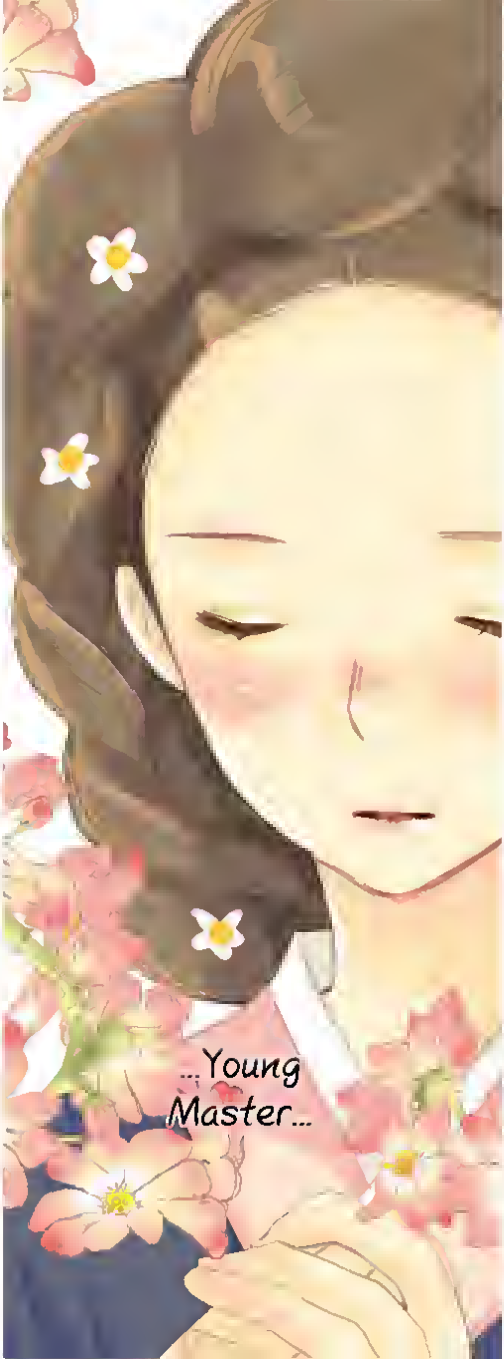

Well let s call it a
day and I ll find
out tomorrow

Manduk.

I don't care how
you live...

Or how you look.

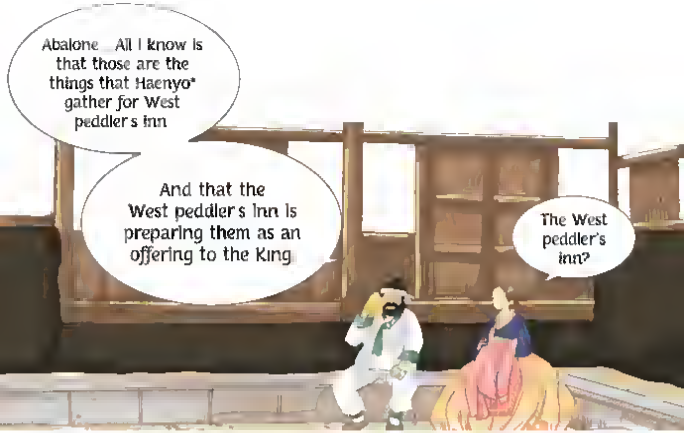



...Young
Master...

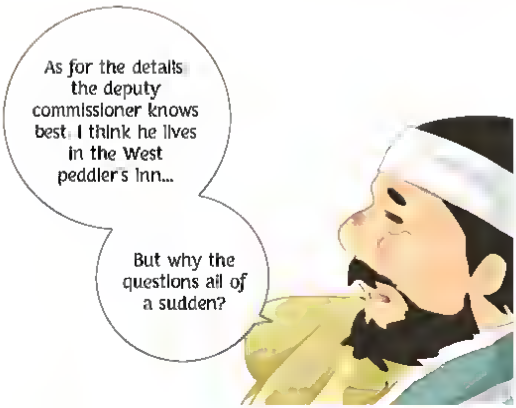
Hey Manduki

What's up? Granny's not here right now...
I guess she s wandering around again...

That s fine.
Today, I came
to see you
Huh?
Me??


Abalone... All I know is that those are the things that Haenyo* gather for West peddler's inn
And that the West peddler's Inn is preparing them as an offering to the King
The West peddler's inn?

*T/N: Haenyo (해녀/ 海女) is a female diver who harvests marine products such as abalone and sea urchin.


As for the details the deputy commissioner knows best. I think he lives in the West peddler's Inn...
But why the questions all of a sudden?

Uhm, it's just... Someone asked me about it
The best time to meet him is during the rainy season when it's impossible to make dried abalone
Uhm. You put your hair up*, eh.
Yeah...

*T/N: Remember that for women, having their hair up means they are married or engaged.

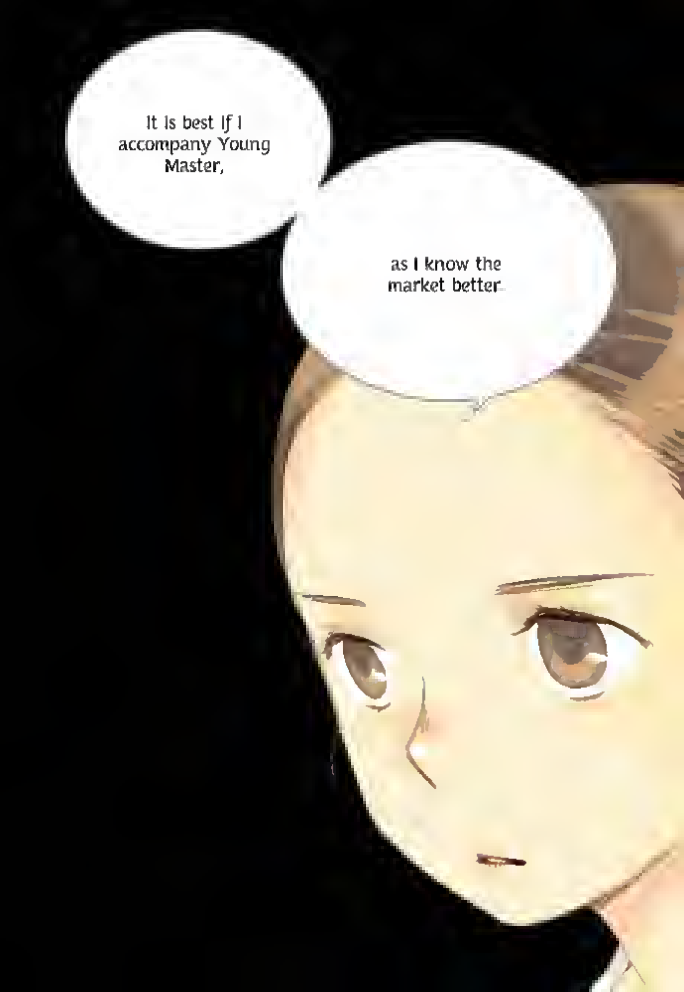
Yes. You could say it's a bridge between East peddler's Inn, where my grandma works, and the Jeju business district.
The Kang Geman Sangdan*, where I worked in Hanyang, is also a part of it.

*T/N: A private group of merchants or traders who watch over the market

So we should investigate West peddler's inn then?
I don t think so.

We should look into the Haenyo first
!

We should check to see if the Haenyo took the profit because they are poor, or if someone took the abalone while it shipped to Hanyang.
The leak will surely have left a trace
It is better if we investigate things one at a time from the very bottom
Let us take a look tomorrow


It is best if I accompany Young Master,
as I know the market better.

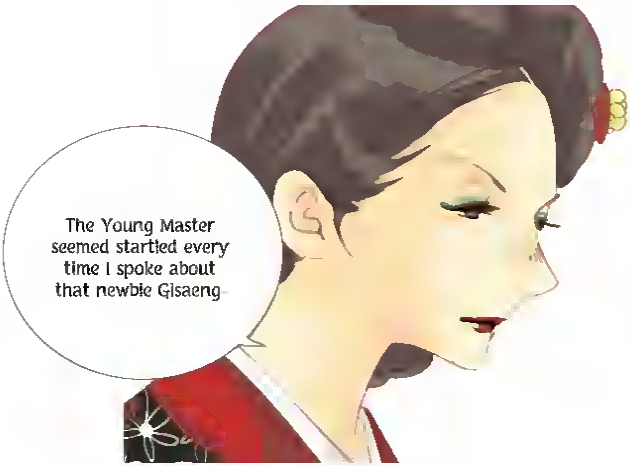
Hmph...
Oh What's the matter?

Speaking so bluntly like that,
You haven t changed Manduk!

Your hasty character hasn't changed even though you grew up.

I knew it!
That punk really fell for Manduk right away.
Oh! How I long for the spring, with all my Gisaeng by my side.
Hic...

But I still don't get it.
Eh? What?


The Young Master seemed startled every time I spoke about that newbie Gisaeng.

Tch!! You've been a Gisaeng for so long and you still don't know these things?
What do you mean?

She doesn't like Kang Yuji!
Jeong Hongsu is okay But Manduk!

?
Even I could tell!
Grasp
!
Manduk has a crush on that Young Master from Hanyang!!

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巨商 김만덕

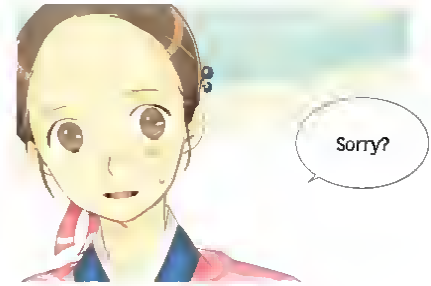
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

- Chapter 11 -

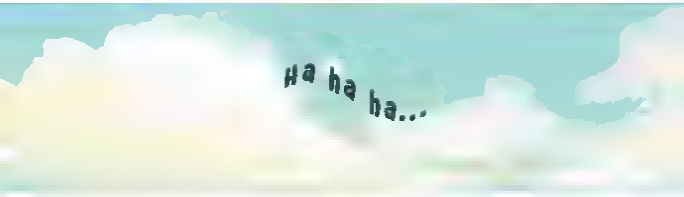
How is it, do I look like a broker?
Yes, you do.

How about me? Do I look like a peddler?
Hmm...

Dunno about that, you look pretty as always. You look great in whatever you wear


Sorry?

Hey, I'll throw you into the sea if you keep flattering me!!
Well, I just told you the truth!


ha ha ha...

Pardon us?

Hmph..

Hahahaha..
So, you say that you came from Hanyang,
looking for a place to trade multi-colored abalone, and you reached here?
How may I be able to find some? I'll pay a generous price of course.

Hmph! A nobleman like you know nothing at all? You even want to make a deal?
Multi-colored abalone is usually offered to the King. It's not a simple task for Jeju people to get a hold of.
Are you sure it's not getting smuggled?
Please, I want to know.

Do you know, why the task of distributing abalone was given to West peddler's inn?

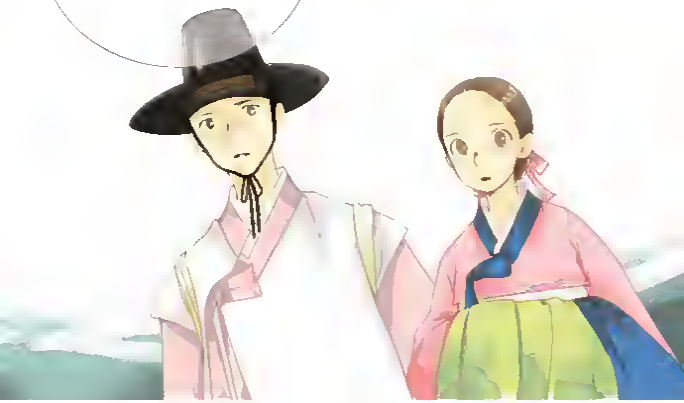
They say, its because the West Peddler's Inn, has the best technique for handling dried abalone but,

we think that the abalone is being smuggled...

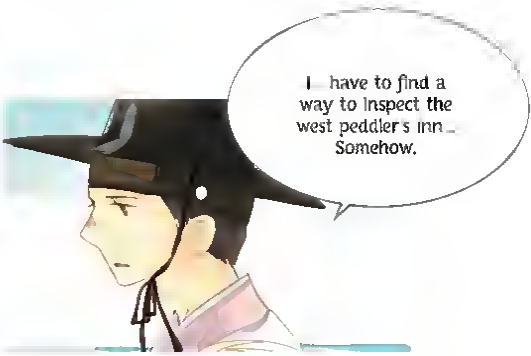
It's not like there is a quota, but it feels like there is.

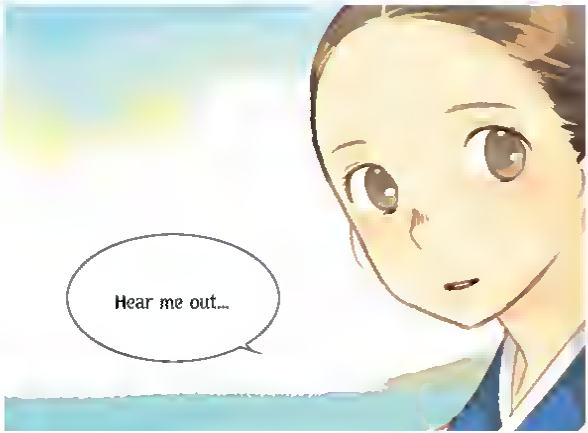
If we can not catch multi-colored abalone on a day or if the other marine products don't meet the requirements...

We even have to put our children to work...



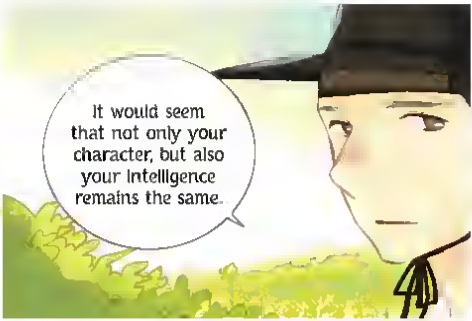
Yeah, that's what I think too.
I don't believe they were lying to us.

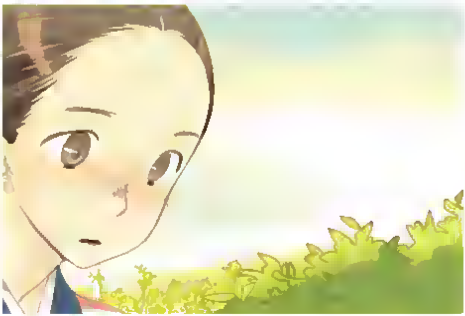

I have to find a way to inspect the west peddler's inn... Somehow.


Hear me out...

When the Haenyeo* put the goods into the storage, they write a record, right?
And West Peddler's Inn records the balance sheet for the day's goods.

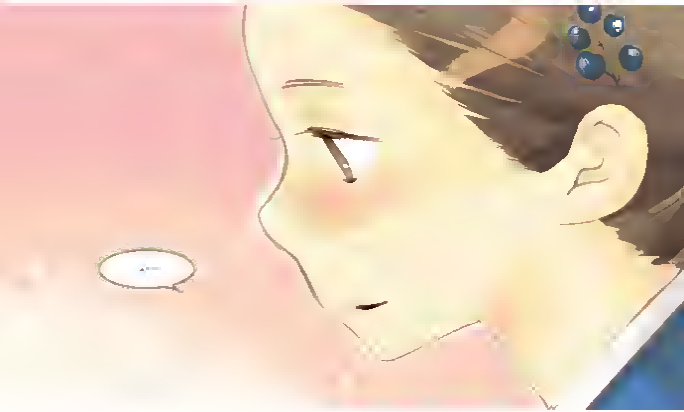
*Literally meaning "sea women" — They're female divers. Since men had to pay heavy taxes, diving was given to women. Heavy dependence on marine products made Haenyeo the main breadwinner and often the head of household.


It would seem that not only your character, but also your intelligence remains the same.



Hey Manduk...

I really enjoy, just being with you.



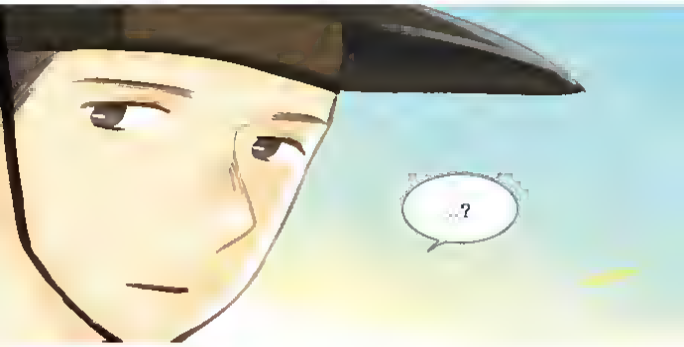
Huh? The Official Inspector?!

Of course, we will help anyway we can.
We catch that abalone by risking our lives every day!
How can we sit around knowing that someone is stealing them?

Furthermore, you shouldn't reveal this matter to anyone.
If the culprit happens to hear about this matter, your life could be in great danger.

I would like to ask you something.
What is it??

You said that the most important thing in life is that one has hope right?
Indeed.
What if that hope is fulfilled? What does one do with life after that?



I believe my
hope is fulfilled
already

What should I do now?

Well that's...

Why don't you make another wish?

Then, you should find a new dream to strive for.

Well then...
I would like to go to Keumgang Mountain with you.

For right now,
I would like to live
with that hope.

If only you knew...

That Jeju girls aren't allowed to leave this island without permission from their King.

Even more, to wish to visit Keumgang Mountain*, can only remain a dream.

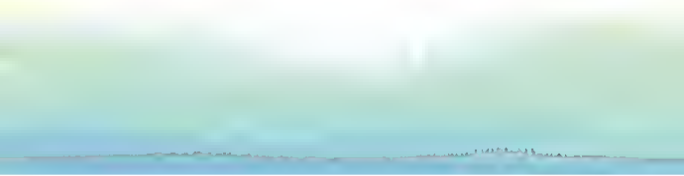
*T/N Kumgangsan is best known for its scenic beauty. The mountain has been given four names representing four seasons: Diamond Mountain in Spring, Pongrae Mountain in Summer, Pungak Mountain in Autumn, and Kaegonal Mountain in Winter.

A dream that
will never be
fulfilled.

Let us live for that moment.

Sure..

..live for that moment..



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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

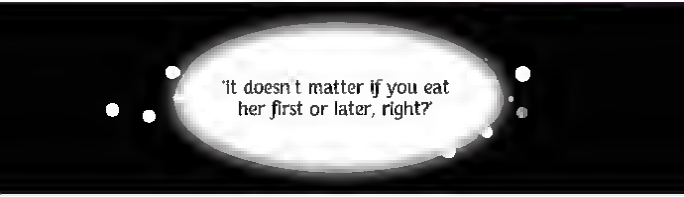
Chapter 12

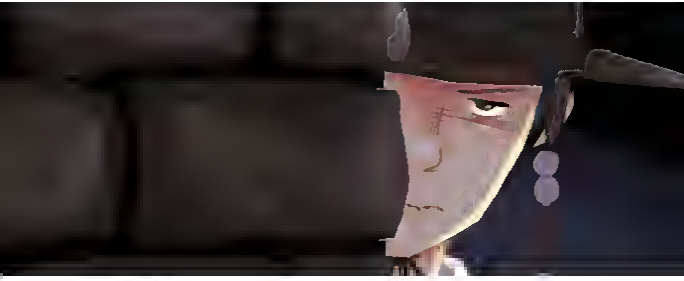
Could you please go in first?
I want to see you leave before I go in

I don't want you to be standing here when I go... You go in.
I also do not want to leave Doryeon-nim. Please go before me

We're going to be here the entire night
you go in first!
I refuse.

Manduk.
you are so stuborn.. Where did you get it from?
I could ask you the same thing


'it doesn't matter if you eat her first or later, right?'



It feels so good to be together like this
I...also...

Gasp!

struggle
struggle

BE QUIET OR
I'LL KILL YOU!

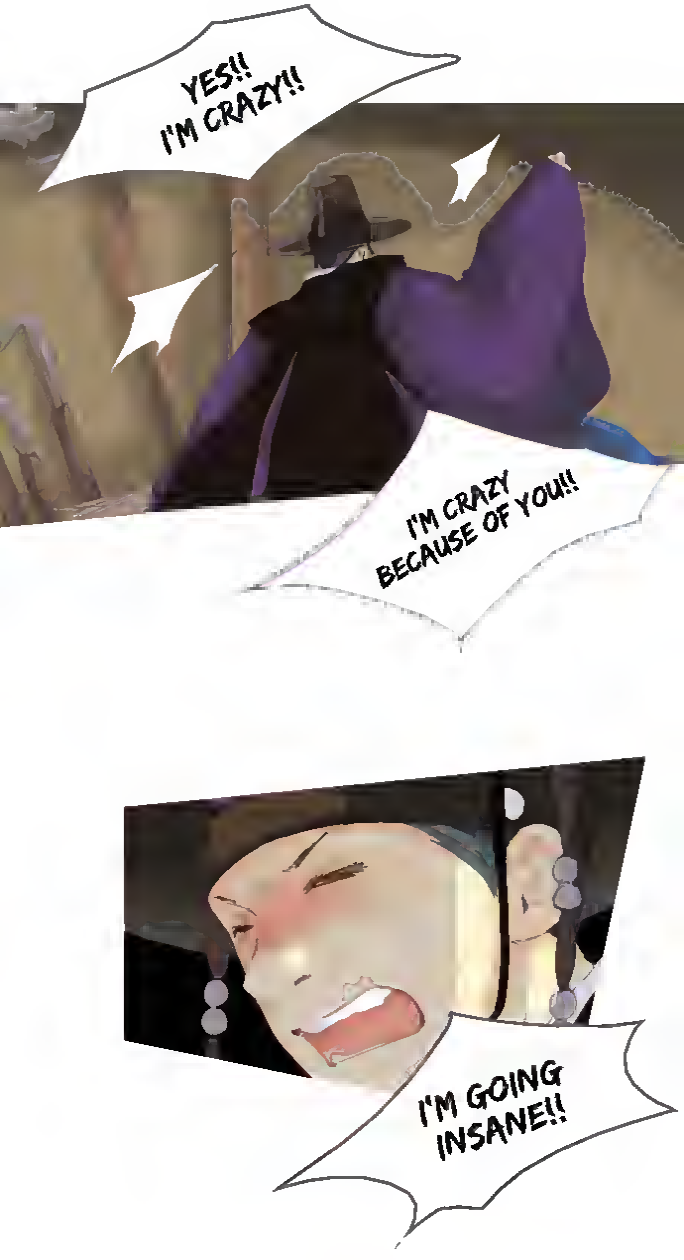
land!

You didn't even look at me when I was begging for you,
But then... what's so good about this man from Hanyang?!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

Meaning?
What do you think a man and a woman would be 'meaning' to do at this late hour?
You're absurd...

You're not thinking straight.


YES!!
I'M CRAZY!!
I'M CRAZY
BECAUSE OF YOU!!
I'M GOING
INSANE!!

DORYEON...NIM!!

BANG!

Ha...
Ha...
Ha...

I'm not someone people like you can play with!
I'm not a push-over

Explain to me in details about this situation.

Why is the report by the He-nyeos (sea women) and Gaek-Ju different?
Please explain this.

.....

TELL ME!!
I am not responsible for this!! Only this man is involved with this matter! He can explain to you!
Slam!

W-WHY DON'T YOU TELL US YOUR EXPLANATION FOR SUCH A CASE?
S-satto.
I've had a great desire for money... and I've committed a crime worth losing my life over.

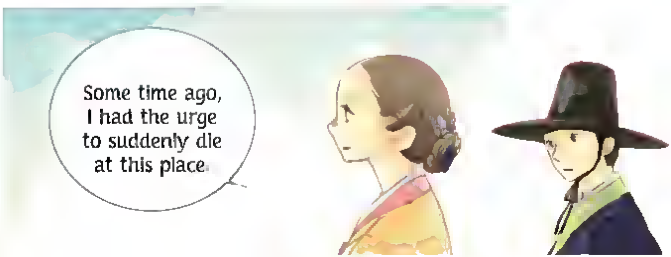
Satoo.....

What can I do if they have evidence?
Someone has to take the blame... I'll compensate you later.
Aigoo..Sir... Satto...

Are you going back to Hanyang?
Why? Are you sad that I'm leaving?
W-well, I didn't say that...

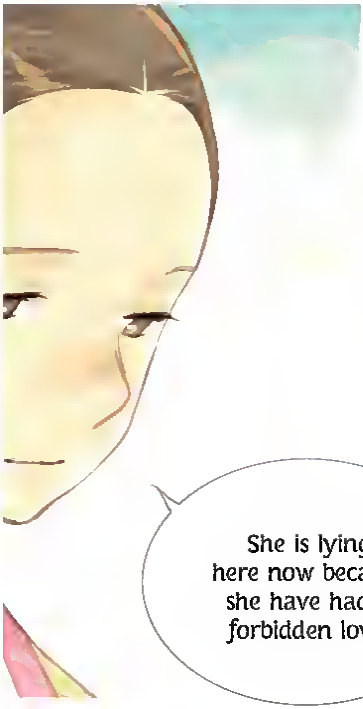
If there was a problem with the abalone distribution, there must be problems with other things as well
I plan on staying a bit longer to investigate.

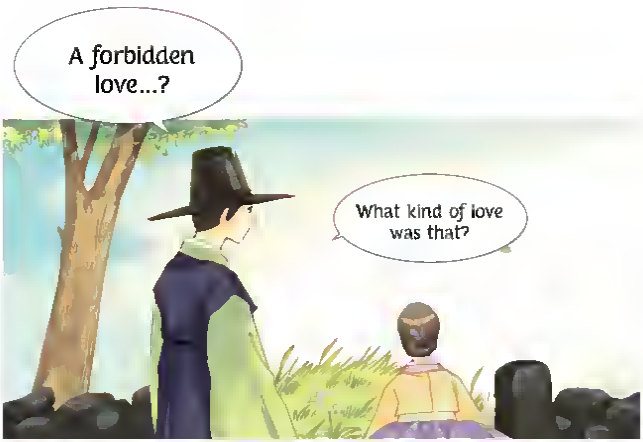
Are you happy?
Yes...


Some time ago, I had the urge to suddenly die at this place.

But this grave-
yard gave me the
will to carry on.

It's my
mother's grave.

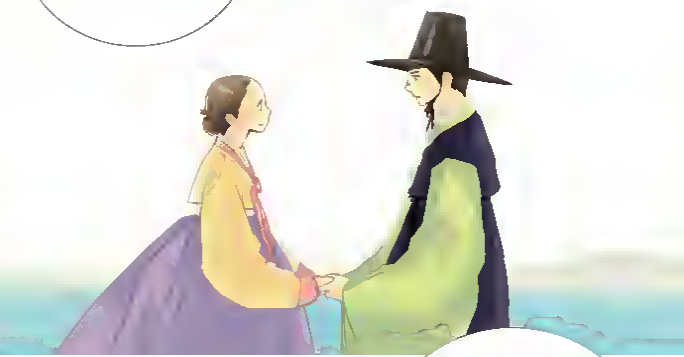

She is lying here now because she have had a forbidden love.


A forbidden love...?
What kind of love was that?

Just like
I am loving
Doryeon-nim...
That kind
of love...

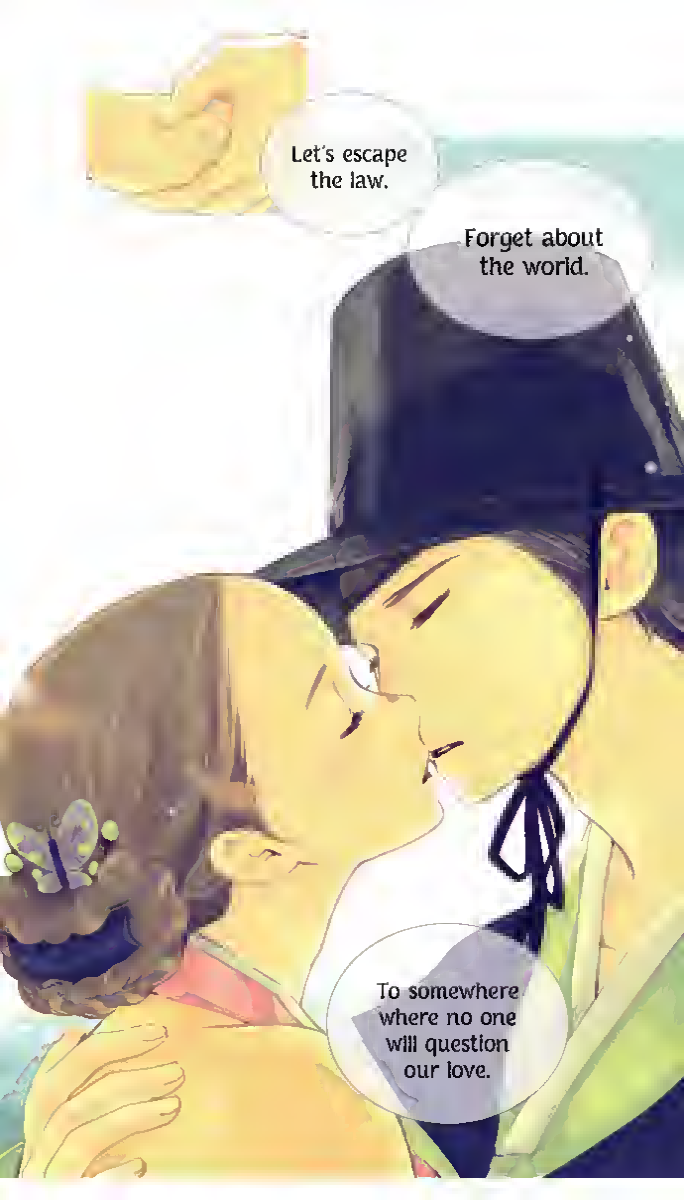
I know very well that even if I continue loving you,

I can never marry you nor live with you.



My heart is free, but my heart is trapped inside my body, and my body is bound by law.

Then...


Let's escape the law.
Forget about the world.
To somewhere where no one will question our love.

Doryeon-nim...

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Story Shin JinSang

Planning & Supervise Yu Konshik
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Chapter 13

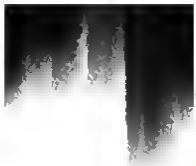
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP, DOES HE?! I CANNOT TAKE THIS ANYMORE!

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WRITE TO HYUNG-PAN DAEGAM.

Considering that old man's strict personality, he will surely take action,

if he finds out that his son is playing around with a prostitute!

(Note Kan= The space between two pillars in a traditional Korean house
only the king can have a house/palace over 99 kan)



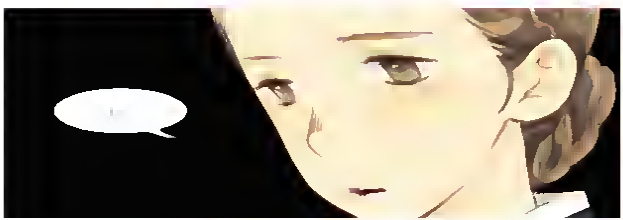
Slam!

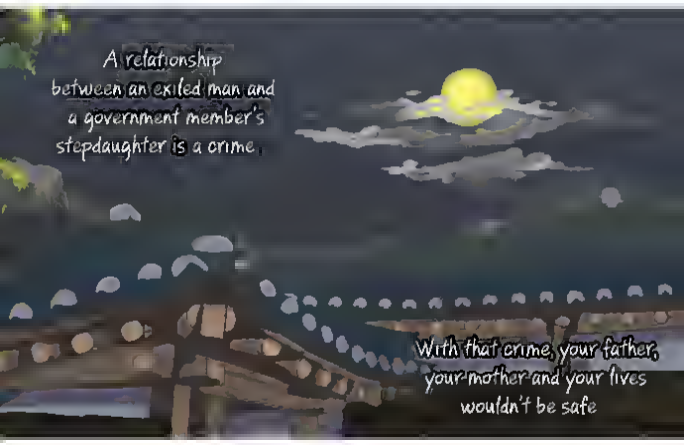
Tch... that man! Now, he is even trying to drag my family into this.

What's the problem?
My father must have heard from Hyun-gam...

...and he is telling me to come back to Hanyang right away.
He seems to have assigned my investigation of the government property distribution to someone else.

Don't worry though.
I won't go back
to Hanyang.
Doryun-nim




A relationship between an exiled man and a government member's stepdaughter is a crime.
With that crime, your father, your mother and your lives wouldn't be safe

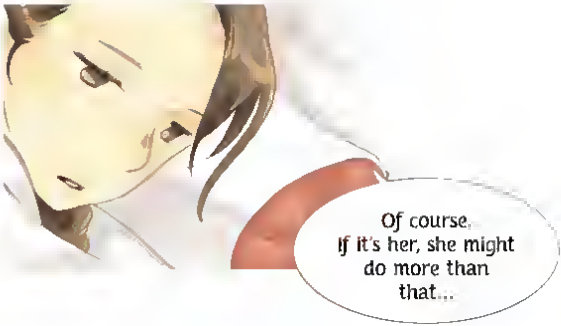
Un Nyeon.

If someone elopes with a government official... What is the penalty for that action?

Well, the government official is the property of the country. So the punishment will be the same price as stealing the country's property
My lady... Y-You're not thinking of running away...
No.

...

My lady, please don't think of such things! It'll be disastrous for everyone
Don't you know lady Myo-Hyang's personality? She will chase you to the end of the world!


Of course.
If it's her, she might
do more than
that...

WHAT?
SHE SAID THAT?!
Well, she didn't say that she will run away... It's just that I'm a little worried about her; So, I thought I should tell you
Maybe you could tell her not to think of such bad things..

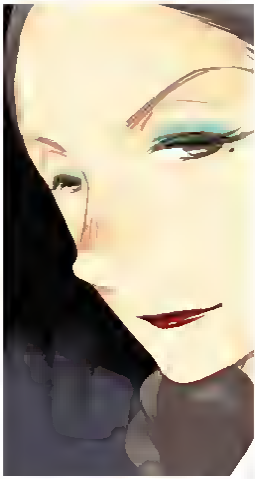
I understand.
You may go out
Yes, my lady...

... Run away, hm...?

Are you really going to repay me like this after all the effort I put in to raise you?

So, Gaek-Ju Sir can just follow my lead.
Can you really do that?

Of course.
Thank you, thank you!! These days, I haven't had the urge to live.
You've saved me!!



What is going on?

Apparently, we're going to have a very special guest
You, me, Byul-nim and Eun-Ok are going to serve him
Maybe the son of a powerful man from Hanyang is sightseeing the eight provinces...
The three of you are serving him until the banquet ends and I'm going to see him to where he is going to sleep

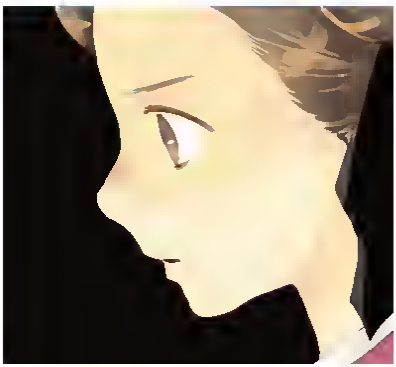
Beautiful! You are my children and you are all very beautiful!

Manduk...
Don't go into that room.

You'll feel lonely being with just Kang You-ji.

If someone hears that, then they'll think you're a fool.

I just spoke the truth. Is that an insult?



Manduk won't know anything when she enters the room.
I shall lock the door from outside.
I will station two healthy young men to guard the door.

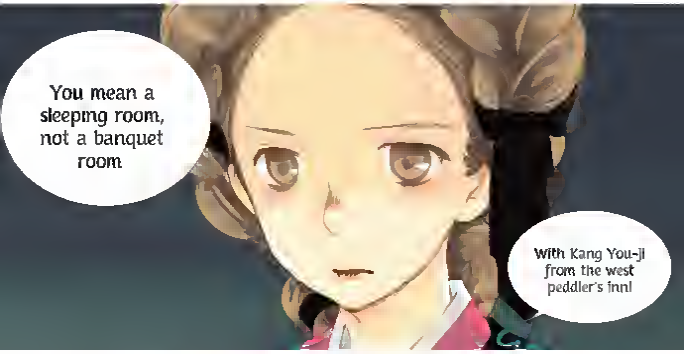
After that, it's all up to you.
Hehehe...

Sigh -
I didn't want to do this to you.
But in the future, there will be a day where you'll be grateful of what I had done.

Is that so?
Slides -

I'm afraid that such a day will not come.
M-Manduk?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT A VERY SPECIAL GUEST HAS ARRIVED? GO INTO THE BANQUET ROOM!


You mean a sleeping room, not a banquet room
With Kang You-jl from the west peddler's innl

!!!

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Story Shin, Ji-Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu, Konshik
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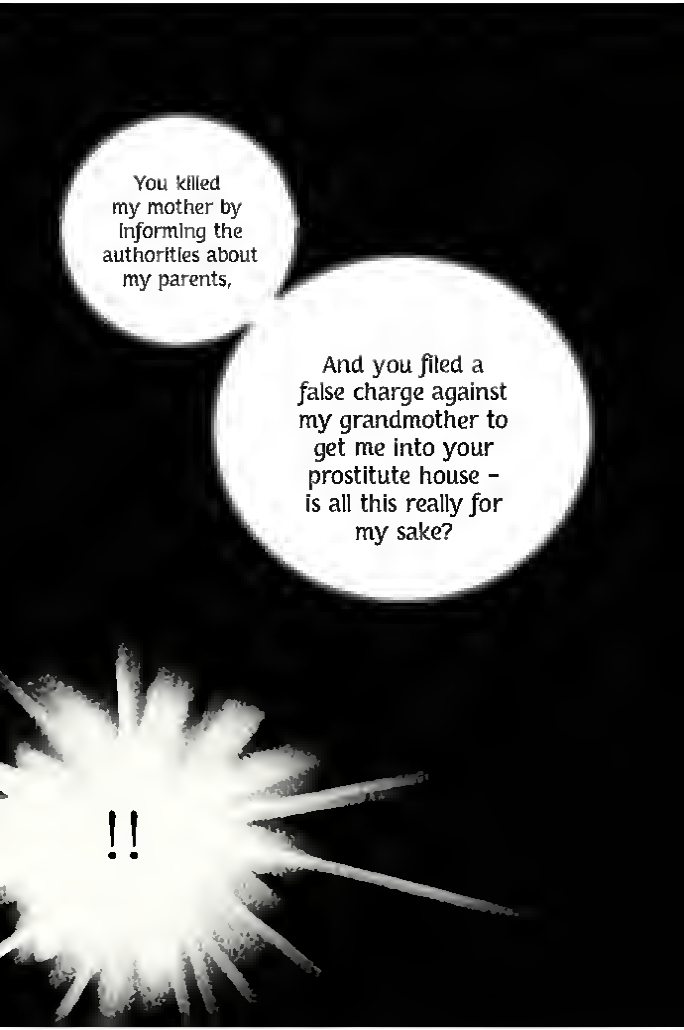
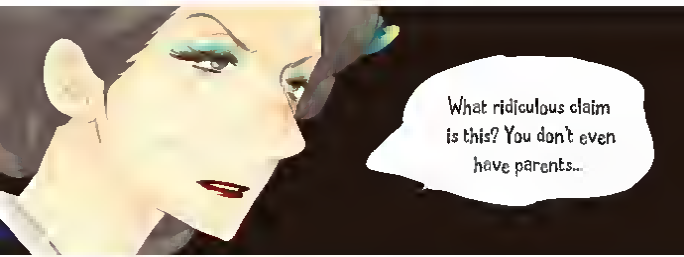
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 14

W-What are you talking about? I'm doing all this for your sake ..

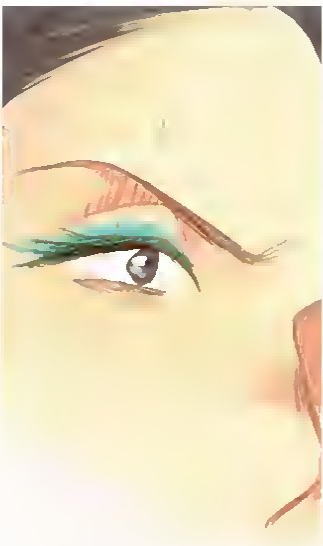
All for my sake?
Ha..


You killed my mother by informing the authorities about my parents,
And you filed a false charge against my grandmother to get me into your prostitute house - is all this really for my sake?
!!


What ridiculous claim is this? You don't even have parents...

Eun-Hong.

Don't tell me you don't remember this name?
Eun.... Hong...? How do you know that name...?!



!!

WHO...

Who would I be?
I'm the daughter of Eun-Hong. The woman you sent to the heavens, just because of your petty jealousy
AHH.... AHHHH.....

AAACK!!!
TAKE THIS DISGRACEFUL CHILD OUT OF MY SIGHT!!
UN-NYEON-AH! AN-GOL-TAEK !!

I don't have any regrets, nor do I have any compassion for such a life of being used by you.

So, I will leave this place
Go without looking back even once.
This ridiculous play by fate will end now.
I will sever the strings of fate and erase the past from my memory.

Manduk-ah!

I ran like a madman after receiving your message! What's going on?
Doryeon-nim...

Some place, where we can escape the law...
Somewhere we can forget the world...

Take me there...

WHAT?
RAN AWAY?

Absolutely ridiculous~! Even if he loves that gisaeng... is he crazy? No one in their right mind will do such a thing...

Go to his quarters. He may not have run away... we should check.

When did he leave?
Ehm... It's been quite a while.

Ggeut-soon came and gave him a message and then he rushed off without a second glance!

Ggeut-soon?!

I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
MANDUK ASSI ASKED ME TO TAKE IT TO THE OFFICIAL FROM HANYANG.... I JUST DELIVERED IT!

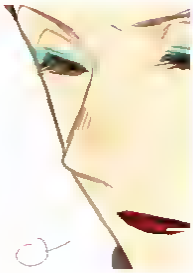
Ha! This is very interesting.
Jung Hong-su... he has dug his own grave.

We do not need to hurry. The ships only come to Jaeju twice a month, and there are no other means of getting out of this island.
They can only play into our hands.

I'll have fun hunting them.

Fun hunting them...

You said this last time as well.

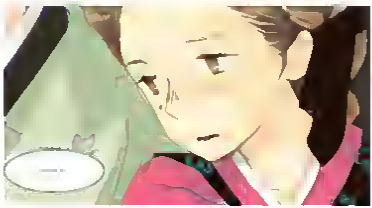


How could it be exactly the same as Eun-Hong's case...?
A play of ill-fate.

I felt so bad...

That night, I didn't even sleep with you, but still asked you to tie your hair up
You shouldn't - After all, I suggested it.

I didn't do this because I thought it might be suspicious if you came into my room without putting your hair up...

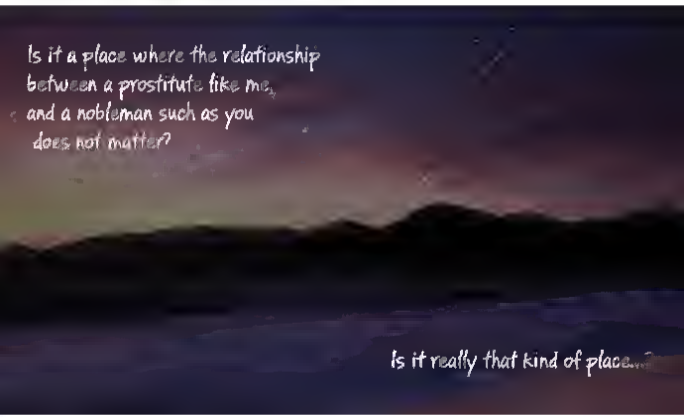


Tonight
I want to put your hair up properly.

Doryeon-nim...

What kind of place is the outside world?

Can we be happy out there?


Is it a place where the relationship
between a prostitute like me,
and a nobleman such as you
does not matter?
Is it really that kind of place...?

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